

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

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BIRTH.

On May 29th, at Quarry Bay, Hongkong, the wife of A. NILSSON, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

On March 20th, at Sissinghurst, Kent, JAMES H. OSBORNE of Shanghai to HETTIE DUNGEY.

On May 24th, at Shanghai, FREDERICK, second son of the late Aaron Ezra, to RACHEL, Widow of the late S. E. Levy of Kobe, Japan.

DEATHS.

On May 25th, at Shanghai, EDITH ISABELLA JOHNS, aged 3 years and 9 months.

On May 26th, at Shanghai, STEVEN SIMPSON, late chief engineer, China Navigation Company, aged 53 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

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ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The German Mail of 7th May arrived, per the s.s. *Roon*, on Wednesday, the 5th instant; and the French Mail of 10th May arrived, per the s.s. *Sydney*, to-day.

The Russian gun vessel *Mandjur*, has arrived at Hakodate. This is the first visit of a Russian man-of-war to a Japanese port since the war.

A *Daily Press* telegram dated Shanghai, June 6th said:—Lieut-Col. C. D. Bruce, the officer commanding the troops at Weihaiwei has been appointed Captain Superintendent of the Shanghai Municipal Police. This is the first step taken for the re-organisation of the police system required by the ratepayers over two years ago.

On the 31st May, Mr. G. P. Lammert, auctioneer, offered for sale by public auction the wreck of the steamer *Nicolaos* which vessel recently stranded off Lulu Head, Quemoy Island, near Amoy. Mr. Mok Lai-sam became the purchaser at a bid of \$3,600, and for another \$50 her cargo of cement also became the property of the purchaser of the vessel.

On May 6th Mr. Hazeland at the Magistracy was called upon to deal with a Chinaman who was found in possession of 20 rounds of ammunition. This was discovered on the wharf of the Canton Macao Steamboat Company, where it was ready for shipment, presumably to the rebels. A fine of \$250 was imposed, the alternative being three months' hard labour.

An innovation, which should be watched with interest, has taken place in the French concession at Shanghai. Here the Chief of Police has created a police cycle corps consisting of Europeans, Chinese and Annamites, to the number of 20. These men are more particularly in charge of the Extension, and *L'Echo de Chine* writes eulogistically of the fine appearance of the native police on handsome new bicycles.

An Amoy dispatch to Shanghai reports that a large mob, well-armed, has arisen in Shaohsien, in Changchou prefecture, Fukien province, against the converts of that city and thence because the authorities have tended their protection to the Christians, the mob threaten to attack the city (Shaohsien) and massacre both officials and Christians. A force of 2,000 troops is being sent post haste to restore order.

Foreigners who have recently been presented to the Dowager-Empress have generally remarked that Her Majesty is beginning to show more signs of her age than formerly. She is beginning to look frail, which, though a septuagenarian, she has not hitherto done, and the remarkable expression of alacrity and vigour is beginning to fade. The Emperor at these Imperial receptions still sits quietly without saying a word.

Mr. A. J. Basto, Jr. (son of Mr. Basto of Macao) has passed his final examination, and obtained his diploma as Barrister-at-law. The Portuguese community of this Colony will be proud of their compatriot, as he is the first Portuguese in the Far East to succeed in being called to the British Bar. He is expected soon from London, and will probably present himself at the Hongkong Supreme Court shortly after his arrival.

We learn from a Port Arthur dispatch to the *Jiji* that the Admiralty of Port Arthur has decided to blow up all the steamers sunk at the entrance to the harbour, and has cancelled a notice of sale of the steamers recently issued. The cost of the work is estimated at ¥300,000. The operations for blowing up the ships have been commenced, and it is expected that the entrance to the harbour will be free from obstacles before the end of the year.

H.E. the Officer Administering the Government has given his assent, in the name and on behalf of His Majesty the King, to the following Ordinances passed by the Legislative Council:—Ordinance No. 1 of 1907.—An Ordinance to amend the Probates Ordinance, 1897. Ordinance No. 2 of 1907.—An Ordinance for the incorporation of the Hongkong College of Medicine.

The Russo-Chinese Bank has paid the sum of over 600,000 taels to the Chinese Maritime Customs, Shanghai, being the sum collected by the Russian authorities at Newchwang as customs tariffs which had been kept in the custody of the said customs house. An Imperial decree has ordered the sum to be paid to the Board of Communications as a fund of that board. The said Board has wired the Shanghai Taotai that as H.E. Cheng Hsiao-sho will proceed to Peking to be appointed to the Board the sum may be handed over to him for transmission to Peking. The Shanghai Taotai has carried out the instruction as requested.

A Chinese foreman named Pung I was charged with killing a coal coolie at East Point on the 27th ultimo. While a number of coolies were working coal, the defendant missed the coolie for a period of three hours, and when he returned and explained that he was ill, the foreman is alleged to have struck him with a stick. Shortly afterwards the condition of deceased became so serious that it was found necessary to remove him to hospital, where he died half an hour after admittance. The defendant was arrested and appeared before Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the Police Court on May 31st when he was discharged as a doctor's statement said that death was due to acute beri-beri, and there were no external or internal injuries on the body.

The *Peking and Tientsin Times* is responsible for the following interesting item of news:—Duke Lan, one of the Boxer chiefs, who was exiled to Sinkiang on account of his connexion with the Boxer upheaval, is living comfortably when he is supposed to be in close confinement. The Duke is using the Chekiang Guild House as his residence, which he regarded as too small so he built a garden on the ground adjacent to it. He is allowed a monthly grant of Tls. 800 for his maintenance, which amount he draws from the treasury. The prisoner always goes out in an official chair borne by four persons, with a large number of body guards, and he is also fond of theatrical performances. The officials from the governor downwards are in the habit of going to his house to pay their respects twice a month.

At the fifth ordinary general meeting of the Hotel des Colonies Shanghai held on May 30 it was announced that since the report was sent out, after careful consideration, the directors decided that it would be imprudent to declare a dividend under present conditions. The working account for last year showed a decrease in revenue of about \$16,000, accounted for entirely by the falling off in local trade and cash sales, as the receipts from boarding and lodging account were about \$2,000 more than in 1905-6.—In reply to Mr. J. Hadley, Mr. E. E. Clark said that there was no cash in hand last year and the dividend was paid by mortgaging the company's investments. It was decided that an extraordinary meeting be called for the purpose of submitting a special resolution that the capital of the company be reduced to Tls. 112,500 in 9,000 shares at Tls. 12.50 each by writing off Tls. 90,000 and by paying back Tls. 22,500 in cash.

THE CHINA HORSE.

(Daily Press, 1st June).

In the April number of the "QUARTERLY REVIEW" appears a very able article on the origin of the domestic Horse, which is not without its special interests for residents in China. The author is Professor J. C. EWART, who has made the history and antiquities of the Horse a subject of special study. It has long been a moot point in natural history whether all the domestic horses at present existing have proceeded from one or several stocks. Had the study of the horse commenced in China there would have been little difference of opinion; and the belief would have been general that at least three species have to be accounted for in China itself, without reckoning the European and Indian breeds of comparatively recent introduction. The language itself lends to this conclusion, there being two perfectly separate and distinct names for the horse, applying respectively to two perfectly distinct types. "Our *mas* are like *K'u*," the *Hwang-hwang-chi Hwa* Ballad third of the *Luh-ming* Decade of the Second Book of the *Shi King*, tells us:—

"Our gallant steeds the *ayins* spurn,
The reins are pliant in our hands;
Urge on the line; nor craven turn
'Tis Cheo's dire need our help demands."

Going up the Yangtse River but a few months ago, the writer found the grooms speaking of their steeds as "*shan K'u*", but this term, he learnt, was never applied to the Mongolian ponies which annually come down in large herds from the north, and which are always known as "*mas*". Now it is instructive to find that in the very oldest remains we have of Chinese literature, the so-called "Book of Odes" really to be translated "Classic of Ballads," the two names *Ku* and *Ma* are as clearly differentiated as at the present day. Along the southerly line for instance, we have Chinese *K'u*, Sanscrit *arva*, Zend *acpo*, Greek *hippos*, Latin *equus*: from the latter the name extending with the animal to old Irish *ech*, Cymric *ep*, old Saxon *ehu*, modern Persian *asp*. The type of this horse is well marked; its colour varies, but in the main it may be described as bay, running to iron grey, but never to dun, nor roan, nor white. It has a small well set head, with prominent eyes, small ears very mobile; arched neck with fairly plentiful mane hanging to one side, and good sized forelock. The withers are high, the limbs fine; the hoofs small and delicately rounded and the pasterns high and straight. The disposition is gentle, but readily excitable, and all the motions rapid and intelligent.

The *Ma* is in most respects the very opposite. It is usually long, of less height, and its withers so low that the back and neck form almost a straight line. Its body instead of being deep is generally almost tubular, and its limbs altogether more coarse, and the bones massive and with larger joints. The head is shorter and wider, and the jaws heavier and more powerful. The colouring and the arrangement of the hair is altogether different. Where unmixed, the colour is always white without a trace of stripe or bars, and the winter coat grows coarse and long, especially about the fetlocks. This is evidently intended as a safeguard in snowy weather. For the purpose of clearing the snow to enable the animal to get at his food when the ground is deep in snow, the hoofs are enormously spread out, and the metacarpal bones and muscles are strongly developed. To protect the neck during the heavy snows and bitter cold of north Asiatic winters as well

as from mosquitos in summer, the mane is enormously developed, and stands high at both sides of the neck, only falling at the extremities. Even more characteristic is the tail, which is long and heavy, the hairs reaching almost to the fetlocks. In this respect the *ma* is a perfect horse; along with the other variety of east and central Asiatic horses to be described below, the upper hairs of the tail are formed into a curious wisp, the purpose of which is not easily to define. In disposition the animal is as markedly different as in appearance from the *K'u*; it is sullen and slow in its movements, and has not the projecting eyes and vivacious habits of the other, nor is it so friendly towards its keeper, having always a reserve no matter how kindly treated. The Mongolian horse is well known throughout China, and till comparatively recently was the only one with which foreign residents came (to any extent) in contact. Even the *Ma* has, however, perceptibly changed of recent years.

When in 1863 FANE'S and HOBSON'S Horse left China, their mounts were sold on the spot and Mongolians from the breeding grounds purchased nearly all, avowedly for the purpose of improving their stocks. So jealous are these Mongol stud-keepers of their breed that they will not permit a mare to leave the breeding grounds, whilst the horses are all castrated. This practice has undoubtedly preserved the purity of the strain, as it has prevented any other strain from getting a footing in China; and it is only of comparatively recent years that horses have commenced to arrive from western sources; between these western ponies, and the intermixture of Arab strain, the external appearance of the *Ma* has sensibly improved; while in point of speed there is also a marked difference. Secondary to this is the change of colouring. Pure white is still to be found, but does not form as marked a characteristic as even a few years ago. The tendency is towards bay; and iron grey and chestnut, formerly rare, are now comparatively common. The disposition has also undoubtedly changed for the better, so that the *Ma* will in all probability soon cease to mark a separate strain. It is worth while to look back at his antecedents. He certainly at one time was an inhabitant of Europe. HERODOTUS speaks of the wild white horses on the banks of the Hypanis which can only have been these, but the name goes back much further for we meet it in Icelandic *Marr*, a steed of which *Merr* was the female. German gives us *Marah*, a war horse, and Anglo-Saxon *Mearh*, while Irish *Marc*, and Welsh *March* tell us of its presence in the British Isles. European naturalists insist on appropriating the animal as the "Celtic" horse, a title to which it is hardly in fairness entitled, as its most characteristic abode is certainly Mongolia. But we can go back even further, and find it an inhabitant of France during the European glaciation. Amongst the engravings discovered on reindeer horns in the cave of La Madeleine is a horse whose identity cannot be mistaken; he has the same straight neck, the same heavy head and jaws, the same low withers, and upstanding mane, and curiously enough even the long tail with the strange wisp at its commencement was not forgotten by the aboriginal artist. In Asia all the Mongolic languages have the same name of *Marin* or *Morin* with which agree the Chinese *Ma*, or *Mo* and the Korean *Mal*; while Japanese *Uma* winds up the long list.

The claim then of both *K'u* and *Ma* to specific rank stands on a practically

secure foundation, and we may accept without hesitation Professor EWART'S judgment; but we are not at the end of the discussion, for the Professor has still another claimant to bring forward whose claim stands on nearly if not quite as good a foundation. The third claimant is the Russian *Tarpan*, an animal which is also very much in evidence in middle China. It is well known amongst sporting men that the colour of a horse has much to say to his qualities for speed and endurance, and at first sight the reason for this peculiarity does not seem very evident. Further investigation will, however, show that colour in a horse is associated with profound changes in his general anatomy. We have spoken of the peculiarities of the bay and the white, but there is a third scarcely less distinct, whose colouring is classed as dun. Dun is not a definite colour, but applied to various shades of mouse, fawn or even blue, which fade insensibly one into the other, and so have come to have a general name applied. Now the first thing that will strike one on examining a dun horse is that he has a dark stripe all along his backbone, generally continued along the tail; the next is probably that he has ears long and close together, and almost like a mule's. Another thing found on examination is that more or less concealed under his dun colouring are certain bars or stripes, which taking a number of individuals together, will be found to follow regular pattern. If we now look at his tail and his hindquarters, we will find that the former is scantily supplied with hair, which moreover, like the mule's also, has a tendency to form a brush at the end. The animal is by no means a mule, as not only does he breed, but what is more to the point, he "breeds true." Equally marked in his temperament; he is distinctly less intelligent than either of his congeners, is slow and generally obstinate, more from a sluggish indifference than from actual vice. He is not, in fact, a desirable animal. The Chinese language has evolved no special name for him, but in Russia he is known as the *Tarpan*, and is generally assumed to be a descendant of the wild horse of the Steppes. Now in the last century, taking as their guide DARWIN, naturalists were averse from allowing multiple origins to our domestic breeds, and so endeavoured to class all three varieties under one species. Now, however this centralising instinct has been considerably modified, and Professor EWART is disposed to make four species out of the domestic horse, the fourth being the Lybian race. This animal does not exist in China, so does not so much concern us.

This dun variety, Professor EWART shows, is in very close accordance with the wild horse of the Steppes, now known as *Equus Prejevalski*, and he gives some characteristic portraits of the two, exhibiting their close correspondence in the details we have pointed out. The colouring too shows a close correspondence, much closer, in fact, than will be found to exist between many separate animals. Curiously we are not without ancient notices of this horse, which CAESAR described as the German Horse, and tells us he was neither good nor handsome, in curious accord with the views of the modern sporting man in China.

HERODOTUS mentions yet a fourth variety amongst the people known as the *Siagynnae*, who inhabited the present plains of Hungary. "Their horses are shaggy all over the body to five fingers in depth of hair; they are small, flat-nosed and unable to carry men, but when yoked to chariots they are very fleet." Evidently HERODOTUS had in his mind's eye the ancestor of the

Shetland Pony. This *pace* Professor EWART, is seemingly entitled to specific rank.

We apparently learn from the distribution of the horse past and present something which many prove useful in ethnography. The Mongol Pony clearly had his origin prior to the European Ice-Age in western Europe; so had the mammoth and the reindeer. When the climate of Europe became too hot, all three emigrated, and we find they must have passed through Siberia; the mammoth certainly having his last home in China. With these animals likewise emigrated the human race of the European Cave-Dweller, and we likewise find his remain in that peculiar type of men whom some ethnographers ridiculously love to call "Mongolians," who impend all over Northern Asia, and whom HERODOTUS denominated Arimaspians.

VICEROY SHUM AGAIN.

(Daily Press, 3rd June).

The unlikely thing has actually happened. Viceroy SHUM has been ordered to resume the reins of government of the *Liang Kwang*. Our Canton correspondent forwards a translation of an Imperial Edict telegraphically received on May 30th, which dispels the doubts as to the probability of such re-appointment, to which doubts we gave expression in our issue of May 31st. Not only is SHUM ordered to return to Canton, but the reasons given are reasons which we expressly mentioned as improbable. The more Chinese politics are studied, the more bewildered may the student be. Sir ROBERT HAET's remark is on record, that the more experience of the Chinese he gains, the less he feels inclined to doxmatise about them and their methods; and the paradox is by no means stretched. The thing that seems most unlikely, after putting two and two together, is the thing that may really occur, in China, as is the case now. SHUM's re-appointment to Canton was considered most unlikely. He was known to be anxious to maintain a position nearer to the Throne, and we have had examples of the way in which SHUM's own predilections have a knack of being gratified. The possibility of such re-appointment was not denied, for SHUM has had an unwanted appointment before, and in the light of his previous doings, and his "at least nominal disgrace," we suggested that he might be found to have been ordered "a sort of gilded exile." In his eyes, Canton is exile as much nearly as Szechwan was, but the pill has certainly been gilded well this time. His Imperial Master, who is, of course, merely echoing the Empress Dowager, and probably against his own sympathy or antipathy, praises SHUM's stern qualities, his gubernatorial strength, his reputation and experience, his sincerity and persevering diligence in face of difficulties, and tells him he is the one man whom the central Government has turned to in what it regards as a serious emergency. No Government servant could hope for a higher testimonial than this telegraphed Edict as translated; and Viceroy SHUM should be re-entering Canton with flourish of trumpets to the confusion of his enemies and the dumb-founding of our venturesome prognostications. But is he? We have gone astray once with our deductions concerning the reported re-appointment, and do not propose to abandon an attitude of modest doubt at the present juncture. We thought the re-appointment extremely unlikely; it has been made. The reasons given for it seemed still more unlikely; they have been re-iterated. We think it unlikely

that SHUM will actually return; but here again our inferences may be destroyed by events. We may, however, call particular attention to the odd conclusion of the Edict. SHUM is "firmly requested," which probably means imperatively commanded, "not to decline" the re-appointment. This looks as if there had been some expectation that he would do so, some overt indication, even, of his reluctance to leave Peking. The next remark about his native place—"Kwangsi is only a province under your control and jurisdiction; it is not necessary for you to shirk your duty because you are a native of that province"—suggests moreover that SHUM had actually raised that plea for exemption. Then, finally, His Imperial Majesty peremptorily dismisses SHUM's application for sick leave. We were justified, it seems, in declaring that SHUM would dislike the idea of returning to Canton, as he disliked the idea of going to Szechwan. He evaded the latter by a truly remarkable course of subterfuge and effrontery, and we believe in his cleverness and obstinacy sufficiently not to be surprised if he fails to come to Canton after all. When he was Viceroy of the two Kwang he tried repeatedly to get away, and was several times foiled in a somewhat amusing manner. There were those in Peking who were afraid of his power and influence if he should get nearer the scene of their activities, the backstairs at Peking, for personal ambitions prevent the reactionaries from pulling together. "Here is our valient friend and faithful servant applying for release from duty, that he may come to pay his respects to Us," the Empress-Dowager would say, and those around would make answer: "Truly he is the best man your Majesty has. Just now, at such an important part of your dominions, so near to the place temporarily occupied by the barbarians, you need the strongest and best arm you have." And thus there used to come south, in answer to his petitions, enthusiastic tributes of Imperial praise, coupled, alas, with orders to stay where he was. The Chinese courtier sometimes finds it better to praise than to impeach a man. SHUM's appointment to Szechwan seems to have been due to a strong series of impeachments following the railway fiasco in Kwangtung; but by convenient illu sses, pious divagations, and by patiently marking time, he put off that fate until he could safely get at the Imperial ear, and was then rewarded with such a post as he desired, with more favourable access to his Patroness. He has been overworking his privilege, and the result in all probability is this re-appointment to Canton. It is hoped that he will be as successful now as he was when ordered to the Far West.

Since the foregoing was written, we have received a copy of the *N.-C. Daily News* which contains the following, for which our northern contemporary's well-informed Chinese correspondent is responsible:

"As already repeatedly noted in this column the conduct of H. C. Tsên Ch'un-hsuen [Shum] in Peking has brought him so many enemies that no chance was lost to get him sent out of the Capital. In fact we had doubts whether his Excellency would be allowed to remain as long as three months in Peking after his indiscriminate denunciations against all manner of high officials, good, bad and indifferent. Indeed so much was Tsên a man of reckless impulse that even men of high ability and integrity did not escape his wholesale denunciations. In some cases he repented of his actions—when it was too late—and he dared not recall his words for fear of being himself cashiered and dismissed with ignominy. As will be seen in the seventh

Imperial edict translated by us above Tsên Ch'un-hsuen has been sent out of Peking and appointed to, of all places, his old post of the Two Kwang Viceroyalty, where he is so much disliked by the people that when he left Canton a few months ago for Shanghai, there was general rejoicing in that city; some persons, it is stated, even going so far as to offer thanksgiving sacrifices at the temples to celebrate his Excellency's departure. Under the circumstances the return to Canton of Viceroy Tsên, who has been now made the substantive Viceroy of the Two Kwang (he was Acting Viceroy before) will be doubtless viewed with apprehension by his opponents in the South. There may, however, be a reason for his Excellency's appointment to the Southern Viceroyalty owing to the recent activity of the secret societies there, in which case a strong man is wanted, which Viceroy Chou Fu is not."

AGAINST PHONETICISM.

(Daily Press, 4th June).

It appears that the mania for spelling reform, which has set in in England and America, is not confined to those countries. A similar movement has for some time been going on in France where certain persons have organised themselves into an Association for the purpose of obtaining what they term a reform of the French language. Their chief object is to do away with superfluous letters, and to adopt a spelling which will be as far as possible purely phonetic. In the main the movement is very much the same as that which has taken place in England and America, in the former country with very small results except in shorthand but which, in the latter, led to the comical incident of the President sending the manuscript of his Message to Congress to the printers in the reformed form, which however did not prove acceptable to the editors of the journals, who without condescending to any explanations, promptly translated the document and gave it its ordinary unimproved spelling.

Mons. Bertholet of the *Académie Française* contributes a very learned and exhaustive article on the subject to the *Revue des deux mondes* in which he succeeds in showing that the alterations proposed would serve no useful purpose and would lead to endless confusion. He indeed goes further and points out that any attempt to introduce the proposed reformed spelling under the authority of the Head of the Education Department and in connection especially with examinations would be a serious injustice and could not be allowed in a free country—to say nothing of the injustice which would also be inflicted upon the publishers of standard works, who if the new system were established by authority, would be compelled to reprint a large number of works.

A point which is of special interest to readers in China is referred to by M. Bertholet in discussing the general merits of the question. He proves conclusively that in European languages just as in Chinese there have always been two distinct forms—the written and the spoken, and that the former has never been either in its nature or origin really phonetic. This has generally been considered a peculiarity of Chinese, but it is shown that exactly the same principle that applies to that language is also to be found in the languages of European countries. Upon this he observes that the principle upon which the reformers chiefly rely is that of phonography, that is the necessity of establishing an exact conformity between words and their pronunciation. They say that writing is the representation of the sound of the spoken word—the image of the voice, an opinion contrary to fact, as writing historically is shown to have begun by a

representation of objects, the first phase of which we find among the ancient Mexicans. "From this point," he continues, "have been derived by gradual modifications, and very different kinds of signs, the systems of hieroglyphics of Egypt and Chaldea; and an alphabetical system is still in force with the Chinese." He adds that our alphabetical systems have their origin in a transformation of the hieroglyphic signs whose original construction was not phonetic. In illustration of his subject M. Bertholet gives some startling instances of the variations in pronunciation which actually exist in the present day in different parts of France. Such a simple word as "moi" is pronounced in different places *moa* and *moué*—as great a variation as is to be found in most words in Chinese between the Peking pronunciation and that in Canton, Foochow or even Shanghai. Curiously enough the "Reformers" have suggested as a remedy for this a system exactly similar to that which is adopted with more or less success in China—that is the adoption of one special standard of pronunciation as a kind of Mandarin Dialect, which ought to be understood and adopted by all people of education. He justly observes that an attempt of this kind would be of little use as no amount of teaching at schools would prevent the local pronunciation becoming mixed up with that which was taken as the standard. Of the truth of this we have ample illustrations in China, where the officials are all supposed to speak the pure Mandarin dialect but in reality always speak it with variations which are sufficient to indicate to the Chinese ear what province the speaker hails from. The impossibility of preserving a given pronunciation is in itself an ample ground for abandoning any attempt at introducing a fixed standard of spelling on a phonetic basis; but the French "Reformers" who evidently do not intend to be baffled by any trifling difficulty, have suggested that the aid of the phonograph might be called in but, among other little difficulties, it is pointed out that the "records" for phonographs are obtained in wax and that so soft a material might be subject to awkward mechanical or chemical changes. These, however, would probably not be greater than in the course of years would arise in the recognised pronunciation itself so that even with all the appliances of modern science, it would prove impossible to maintain a phonetic standard of any language for any great length of time. On the whole we think that most people will agree with Mr. Bertholet that the matter is one of those in which it is better to leave well alone. Even orthography, painful as it may be to scholars to recognise the fact, is not invariable; much less so the pronunciation of words. The best that can be attained is a system recognised by general acceptance, but susceptible in some instances of varieties, the legitimacy of which will be recognised or repudiated by the educated public.

PUBLIC APATHY.

(Daily Press, 5th June.)

If the report of the Special Commission appointed to investigate the administration of the sanitary laws of the Colony had been buried in an official paper inaccessible to the general public, the strange lack of interest shown would have been less mysterious. The report has had the fullest possible publicity, however, and it is exceedingly difficult to guess at the real reason for the absence, the marked absence, of comments by members of the public.

For instance, paragraph 156 must have touched many citizens, as dealing with almost everyday occurrences. It says, "In the general cleansing as in the disinfection of infected houses, too much power is left to the foremen. The inspector makes a few notes and gives a few orders, the Medical Officer of Health gives far too little supervision, the foremen and coolies have too much their own way and pay no regard to the wishes or feelings of the people whose houses they invade. Furniture must be removed into the street, that might have been left where it was. Articles washed must be washed again, resulting in much needless friction. These men have been known to march into people's houses and extort money by threats of the trouble they would put the inmates to, if their demands were refused. In the disinfection of houses, their behaviour is characterised by insolence, rudeness, and frequently violence, which of course adds to and to a great extent accounts for the hostile feeling of the Chinese towards the Board." That is a very strong indictment, so strong that the Hon. Mr. MAY, who does not accept it as warranted, has described it in a Minute as a "lurid picture." He would be glad of the adduction of facts and of specific complaints, because at present the absence of such leads him to believe that the general cleansing, and disinfecting have "on the whole been carried out with as little inconvenience to the public as in the circumstances might reasonably be expected." Now this is one of the very points on which members of the public can strengthen the position of the Commission, if they have any specific complaints to make, and if they wish for reform. We happen to know of one specific case in which a gang of unsupervised coolies invaded a foreigner's quarters, where the Medical Officer of Health did not attend at all, where an insolent disregard of the reasonable wishes of a contact was shown, where "articles washed"—clothing folded up in covered receptacles that had not been touched by the patient—were taken away to be re-washed, and where there was actually an ignorant and stupid refusal by mere subordinates to leave the contact sufficient clothes for immediate use, so that, but for the contributions of friends, even the laws of decency would have been outraged. According to the Commissioners, there have been many cases worse than that. Is the general public not neglecting a plain duty by remaining silent? The most complaints, of course, come from Chinese, and it is worth pointing out that the charges of the Commission are levelled against Chinese subordinates, the guilt of the foreign employees being that of neglecting to look after these rascals sufficiently. No one who has had any experience at all can have failed to note how thoroughly objectionable a low-class Chinese can make himself, if left with any show of authority at all. It is the nature of the beast to be unreasonably arbitrary, and where not carefully and closely supervised by those paid to superintend his work, is quite capable of all and more than the conduct attributed to him in this paragraph 156.

A correspondent writing from Peking says:—I understand that an effort is being made by the Foreign Ministers to enclose a portion of the canal near the Tungpien Mien on the Eastern side of the Tartar City as a swimming pool. Also to secure the area known as Badtha's Land for the erection of a building which will serve for picnic parties, etc. It is further suggested that if buildings were put up along the canal bank for foreign and Chinese traders the district might be turned into a useful commercial centre.

CHINESE REFORMS.

(Daily Press, June 6th.)

Captain BRINKLEY in the *Japan Mail* expresses the conviction that "the Middle Kingdom is the storm centre of East Asia," and goes on to quote with approval some Japanese opinions of the hopelessness of real reform in China. The writer quoted had just returned from a long sojourn in China, and is, according to Captain BRINKLEY, "a man evidently of considerable weight and position." According to this Japanese observer, the movement for administrative reform in China has resulted in numerous contradictions, and created a situation abounding in anomalies. The upshot of his observations is that Chinese conservatism is perennial, and that none of the apparent progressive impulses can have any effect other than temporary dislocation. As this pessimism appears to be an intelligent echo of obiter dicta frequently overheard in many places on the China coast, it is of interest to note some of its specific grounds. Allusion is made to the benevolent activities of Viceroy YUAN, who had the nominal approval and support of the Central Government, but whose authority, according to this contributor to the *Hochi*, was actually crippled and reduced in various manifest ways. He (YUAN)

advised in the forefront of his schedule that the powers of the purse and of the sword should be handed over to the central government. In the matter of finance complete failure was the outcome, and in the matter of military affairs the only issue was that, out of the six divisions organised and controlled by Yuan, four were transferred to the central government and two were left under his command. It was a species of compromise which did not amount to either fish, flesh, fowl or good red herring. Even the Military Academy in Paojing, which, as a nursery of officers, ought necessarily to have passed with the four divisions to the control of Peking, remains in the hands of the Viceroy. It has been theoretically handed over, but on the plea that the formalities of transfer have not been fully complied with, the War Office in Peking declines to find funds for the support of the Academy and that responsibility rests on Yuan's shoulders. Meanwhile his programme having been thus frittered away and his policy having proved an abortion, the ready-money politicians of China as they are called, no longer darken the portals of Yuan's Yamen.

The good faith and impartiality of Captain BRINKLEY's witness may be considered to be somewhat established by his reference to the Japanese military instructors at the Paojing Academy, whom he does not hesitate to describe as "a disgrace to their country," but whether it is incompetence or malpractices that makes them such is not stated. The movement for sending thousands of Chinese students to Japan he ridicules as "a mere fashion without any logical basis." We know that these students, on returning to China, have not been received with open arms by the authorities, but that has been largely due to their own indiscretion. They come back often, not as well-informed reformers but as impatient iconoclasts, full of maldigested ideals that are still further misunderstood by their stay-at-home friends before whom they delight to parade their "enlightenment." The "logical basis" for their despatch to Japan in the first instance may have existed; the Chinese thirsting for foreign science would not be content to accept it at second-hand, especially from their formerly despised and still unloved neighbours, were it not that Tokyo offers it more cheaply and expeditiously. Still, there is little doubt that even the best of them have been ill-rewarded for their enterprise and diligence.

Among those who are not keen re-actionaries they have encountered distrust, and at the best they have been "appointed to petty posts whose emoluments barely suffice them to vegetate, and having been left thus in obscurity for three or four years, until in the refined atmosphere of China their Japanese odour has been purified, they become for the first time eligible for promotion." That is how a Japanese of weight and position, who cannot forget the speed with which his own people inaugurated a changed régime, regards the situation in China. The foreigner could feel more patience with Chinese slower progress if he could safely attribute it to pure conservatism, but it is worse than that. Movements even more active, and unfortunately with readier favour, at Peking, are being directed to forcing the hands of the clock back, even while men like YUAN are winding it up.

PRINCE FUSHIMI AND "THE MIKADO."

(Daily Press, 7th June.)

For weeks past the English papers have been full of allusions to the visit to King EDWARD of Emperor MITSUHIKO's relative and representative, Prince FUSHIMI. None can doubt the enthusiastic nature of the welcome extended to the distinguished representative of our Allies, and it is a little unfortunate that anything should have occurred to blemish that cordiality. But the withdrawal from the British stage of the popular comic opera "The Mikado", withdrawn for fear of causing offence to the nation's guest, was seized upon by the papers as a subject for complaint, and animadversions on the intelligence of the officials responsible. As a property valued at £10,000, Mr. W. S. GILBERT, the librettist, and Mrs. D'OYLY CARTE, the lessee of the stage rights, naturally have ground for complaint at its enforced disuse; but when permission is again accorded, as it surely will be, they will find their compensation in the remarkably effective advertisement the piece has had. Led by most of the journals of the country, the public resented the arbitrary and, as it is generally contended, the unreasonable action of the Lord Chamberlain, and the leading Japanese residents in London hastened to assure them that the public performance of the amusing burlesque was not objected to by them. We quote here one of the best letters that has appeared on the subject, although others have wittily recommended the compulsory withdrawal of "Hamlet" on the ground that it may offend Denmark, and so on:

Sir,—The relations of the Lord Chamberlain's office towards the theatre in this country seem to grow every year more ludicrous. Hitherto its blunders have been most conspicuous when interfering in the sphere of morals—as, for example, when a licence which was refused to plays by Brieux, Maeterlinck, and Ibsen was granted to *Education du Prince*. But its exploits in the political sphere seem likely to equal even these in folly. The withdrawal of the licence to perform *The Mikado* is just one of those instances of thoughtlessness which make one despair of officials. It was meant, of course, as a piece of courtesy and deference to Japan. Properly considered, it is nothing less than an insult to that great people. The Japanese are our allies. We respect and admire them for the splendid fighting qualities displayed during the late war, and for their no less splendid qualities of self-restraint and resolution before and after it. Yet the Lord Chamberlain treats them as if they were children or barbarians! If the Japanese, instead of being an Oriental race, were a European Power, does anybody suppose that a comic opera about them written 20 years ago and performed since then in every country in the civilized world, including their own, would be suppressed

because one of their Princes was visiting London? To imagine such a thing is preposterous. But the Prince is a Japanese Prince, and so the Lord Chamberlain thinks it courteous to make allowances for the fact and treat his countryman as on a different footing from other civilized nations. Forgetting (I must suppose) Tsushima and Mukden and Port Arthur, he hurriedly reverts to the old fashioned attitude towards the Japanese as "that funny little people, so quaint, you know!" and adopts a course of action which he would never have dreamed of adopting in the case of Germany or France or any Western nation. I protest against this "funny little people" attitude being adopted at this time of day towards a nation that has proved itself one of the most gallant and self-devoted on the face of the earth. I protest against a nation with the splendid intellectual grip and clearness of the Japanese being treated as children. Most of all do I protest against our behaving in this way and imagining that it is a courtesy! On the contrary, it is an ignominy. To suppose that the Japanese are still smarting (if they ever smarted, which I question) under a joke originally made 20 years ago, and that they now desire its forcible suppression, is to deny them all intelligence and all sense of humour. But we know, as a matter of fact, that they have made no such request. The withdrawal of the licence of *The Mikado* is another signal instance of fussy and unjustifiable interference on the part of the Lord Chamberlain's office with the theatre in this country. I sincerely hope that pressure will be exercised to secure the immediate cancellation of that withdrawal before we find ourselves the laughing stock of Europe. I am, &c., ST. JOHN HANKIN.

Savile Club, May 5th.

As we have remarked, the Japanese themselves have disclaimed any responsibility for the Lord Chamberlain's act, and we believe the incident must have been a cause of some pain to them. Either as guest or host, the Japanese gentleman is the perfection of real courtesy, and whatever he may think, no expression likely to ruffle the composure of his host or guest is ever permitted to escape. The fuss that our contemporaries have been making appears to us on a par with the conduct of the ill-bred hostess who reprimands her servants before her guests. It would have been better to wait until Prince FUSHIMI had gone. However, we can trust our Allies to assess the incident at no more than its true importance, especially as in all other ways the nation did its best to repay them for the exceptional welcome extended in Japan to Prince ARTHUR and his suite. In the drive to Buckingham Palace the Imperial guest was escorted by the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Connaught, and Prince Arthur. The Japanese Ambassador and Admiral Yamamoto in the second carriage had the distinguished company of the Earl of Selton and Lord Roberts. Sir Edward Seymour, Admiral of the Fleet, escorted General Nishi, and so on. The nation's best went personally to look after its Allies' best. It is a source of gratification to those who recognise its importance to note that, remarkably as the Japanese went out of their way to do honour to the King's envoy, their courtesy was amply returned. In the friendly rivalry of the high politeness, England was not outdone.

CHINESE REBELLIONS.

(Daily Press 8th June.)

The statement reaches us indirectly that Chinese revolutionary leaflets are being printed in Hongkong. Doubtless this is being done with some measure of secrecy, or the authorities would soon put a stop to it. In this Colony we have no option but to regard the Chinese rioters in the neighbouring Empire as lawbreakers, unentitled to support. The *Straits Times* of Singapore, in which we have noticed the

statement that Hongkong is the productive source of pamphlets designed to "stir up the people of China against their Manchu rulers," is in a position to go further, and does so. It roundly offers its sympathies to the anti-dynastic movement. This course, supposing we were disposed to adopt it, would be quite improper for us, as near neighbours of a Friendly Power. But little as we approve of the present representative of the Manchu dynasty,—meaning the Empress-Dowager, and not the Emperor—we have no desire to offer sympathy or moral support to those at present in rebellion against her authority. If there were no other reasons for holding aloof, it would be sufficient to remember that what our Singapore contemporary calls the Reform Party (there is a Reform Party that is not anti-dynastic) does not consist of *pukka* patriots. Sentimentally, the spectacle of the true Chinese making even a belated effort to throw off the foreign (Manchu) yoke should appeal to us, but we do not believe it is anything so respectable. There has so far been no evidence of the bona-fide patriotism that should and would inspire an anti-dynastic movement. Probably if the agitation develops, the same political exigencies that required foreign intervention against the Taiping Rebels, and led to their suppression by General GORDON and LI HUNG-CHANG, may again have force. It appears that the rebel agitator SUN YAT-SEN has hopes that such foreign intervention may not be forthcoming again. We quote from a translation in our contemporary: "When our great object of revolutionising China shall have been accomplished," he writes, "not only a new era would dawn upon our beautiful country, but a brighter prospect also would be shared by the whole human race. Universal peace will surely follow the step of the regeneration of China, and a grand field hitherto never dreamed of will be opened to the social and economic activities of the civilised world." There is a promise there of preferential treatment to foreigners if they leave the next rebellion a free hand, or rather, of better and more favourable treatment than (he claims) the Manchus have ever permitted. According to the *Straits Times*, which claims some knowledge of Sun's plans, that person having been domiciled a while at Singapore, the idea was for simultaneous risings all over the Empire, a thing which we quite agree would be most difficult to arrange "in a large country like China, where there are so many untrustworthy people." The clan divisions and provincial antipathies make many "untrustworthy" from the political agitator's point of view; but it occurs to us to suggest that a better word to use would be "mistrustful." The Chinese are not too unsophisticated to weigh motives, and the fact that there is a good deal of money in the rebellion promotion business cannot have escaped them. A Chinese gentleman whose sympathies are distinctly on the side of reform has confided to us his hearty abhorrence of SUN YAT-SEN and all his crew, the latter including a few well-meaning gulls but far more rooks. Every now and then, lest the supply of sympathy and its fruit in currency should fall off these men have to show some return for the monies they receive. That is to them an easy matter. It is notorious that in over-taxed, Mandarins-ridden China there is no lack of districts where popular discontent prevails. There are always, too, restless characters keen to profit by disorders with or without excuse. The campaign is easy. The mob fever (swarmery) is artfully generated, the ignorant masses vent their

indignation in the old-fashioned way, and a few symbolic banners and political catch-words need then to be introduced to label the manifestation as a genuine anti-dynastic rebellion. The Manchus, historically, are conquerors of China, but it is a long time since they gained that eminence, and it is generally admitted that the conquerors have become more Chinese than the conquered have turned Manchu. Any widespread anti-Manchu feeling to-day is as academic in China as is (say) the Scottish or Welsh anti-English feeling. Widespread discontent and disapproval there is, or the professional rebels would not have such an easy time of it, but those widespread feelings are directed at the immediate causes of poverty and unhappiness, official extortion and tyranny—all the less endurable, perhaps, because whispers of democratic liberty have begun to reach their ears from the outer world. The Chinese Emperor, given full power, relieved of the fear of the D wang-Emress and her reactionary friends, and with the overt good wishes of the Foreign Powers, could put an end to those feelings very soon, and probably would, whereas the methods of men like Viceroy SHUM serve to intensify and perpetuate them, and make the position of the professional promoter of revolutions practically a sinecure.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held on the 6th instant in the Council Chamber.

PRESENT:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT, Hon. Mr. F. H. MAY, C.M.G.

MAJOR-GENERAL R. G. BROADWOOD, C.B. A.C.D.

Hon. Mr. A. M. THOMSON, (Colonial Secretary).

Hon. Mr. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ (Attorney-General)

Hon. Mr. C. McI. MESSER, (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. Mr. W. CHATHAM (Director of Public Works).

Hon. Mr. A. W. BREWIN (Registrar-General).

Hon. Mr. F. J. BADELEY (Captain-Superintendent of Police).

Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, M.B., C.M., C.M.G.

Hon. Mr. WEI YUK.

Hon. Mr. H. E. POLLOCK, K.C.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT.

Hon. Mr. W. OSBORNE.

Hon. Mr. H. KESWICK.

Mr. A. G. M. FLETCHER (Clerk of Councils).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE.

HIS EXCELLENCY appointed the Hon. Mr. H. Keswick to fill the vacancy on the Public Works Committee caused by the departure of the Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson.

FINANCE.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I beg to lay on the table the report of the Finance Committee (No 3), and move its adoption. The only amount involved in the report is the advance on railway construction for the current year.

The following is the resolution which the Finance Committee unanimously agreed to:—

"It is hereby resolved that a Sum of Two million four hundred and thirty-eight thousand Dollars (\$2,438,000) be advanced out of Funds in the Custody of the Government for the purposes of construction of the Kowloon-anton railway (British Section) during the year 1907."

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was carried.

PAPERS.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL, by command of His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, laid on the table the report of the

Standing Law Committee on the Ordinance to amend the Bills of Exchange Ordinance.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, by command of His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, laid on the table the following papers.—Report on the Evening Continuation Classes; report on the Post Office for the year 1906; a minute by the Principal Civil Medical Officer, on the Public Health and Building Ordinance Commission.

THE RATING ORDINANCE.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved the following resolution: Resolved by the Legislative Council that the percentages on the valuation of tenements payable as rates in the undermentioned places be altered from the 1st day of July, 1907, as follows:—

Quarry Bay,	From 7 % to 8½ %
Sham Shui Po,	" 7 " to 9 "
To Kwa Wan,	" 7 " to 9 "
Ma Tau Wei,	" 7 " to 9 "
Kowloon City,	" 7 " to 9 "
Tai Kok Tsui,	" 7 " to 10½ "
Fuk Tsun Heung,	" 7 " to 10½ "
Shaukiwan East,	" 9 " to 10½ "
Shaukiwan West,	" 9 " to 10½ "
Shaukiwan Road,	" 9 " to 10½ "
Po Kan Wat,	" 9 " to 10½ "
Tsing Shui Ma Tau,	" 9 " to 10½ "
Sai Wan Ho,	" 9 " to 10½ "
Whitfield,	" 9 " to 10½ "
Tung Lo Wan,	" 9 " to 10½ "
Hok Un,	" 2 " to 10½ "

The differences, as a rule, were on account of the fire brigade, police, lighting and water services.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the resolution was agreed to.

THE COMMISSION'S REPORT.

Hon. Dr. Ho Kai—I beg to give notice that at the next meeting of Council I will ask the following questions:—

(1) What steps does the Government propose to take, and when, in regard to carrying out the recommendations of the Public Health and Building Ordinance Commission?

(2) If the Government does not propose to carry out the recommendations of the Commission *in toto*, which of such recommendations does the Government propose not to carry out?

(3) Will the Government make a statement of what they propose to do with regard to the recommendations of the Commission?

WANCHAI WATER SUPPLY.

Hon. Mr. H. E. POLLOCK asked the following questions:—

1. (a) Has the Government received complaints with reference to deficiencies in the supply of water to houses in Wanchai?

(b) If so, has the Government taken any, and what, steps to remedy such deficiencies?

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS replied: A complaint in writing dated the 25th March last, was received from one, Mr. T. Spafford, regarding the inadequacy of the supply of water to his house, No. 12, Sau Wa Fong. An inspection was at once made, and it was discovered that the rider-main valve had become choked. The valve was cleared on the 26th March. A verbal complaint was made on the 11th May by a Mr. Petersen regarding deficiency of water in Sau Wa Fong, and, after inspection, it was decided to put in an additional connection from the principal main to the rider-main thus enabling an increased supply to be obtained. The work was completed on the 14th May. A constant supply was turned on the 17th May, and no further complaints have been received.

PEAK FIRE APPLIANCES.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK asked:—

2. (a.) What Government appliances exist for the extinguishing of fires at the Peak?

(b.) Does the Government consider that such appliances are sufficient? If not, what steps does the Government propose to take, and when, to remedy such deficiencies?

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE replied:—

2. (a) A fully equipped hose cart is kept at each of the two Police Stations.

(b) Not altogether. Steps are being taken to place a Despatch Box at Mountain View Terrace. But to establish in a rural district like the Peak a satisfactory system of protection against fire would involve large expenditure which the Government is not prepared to undertake.

TREES FOR SHATIN.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK asked:—

3. Will the Government consider the advisability of planting fir-trees and camphor-trees along and on the Northern slope from the road which runs at the side of the catch-water in the Shatin Valley?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied:—

Pine trees have been planted in the made ground on the northern slopes of the catchwater this year, and pine and camphor trees will be planted along the road in the level ground next year. The hills above and below the catchwater are also included in the planting programme for next year.

THE COMMISSION.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK asked:

4. (a) Has the Principal Civil Medical Officer stated in writing to the Government his views with reference to the Report of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance Commission?

(b) If so, will the Government lay a copy of the writing containing such views upon the table?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied:

4 (a). Yes.

(b) Paper laid on the table.

BRITISH SUBSIDIARY COINS.

Hon. Mr. OSBORNE asked:

1. Will the Government cause notices to be exhibited at the paying-in counters of the Treasury, Post Office, Harbour Office, Magistracy and other departments; also inserted in Chinese newspapers, informing the Public that British Subsidiary Coins are legal tender up to \$2 in silver and \$1 in copper on each bill; that Government shroffs are bound to receive them up to the above amounts, and that the public are not bound to accept more than these amounts, as change?

2. With a view to creating a demand for British Subsidiary Coins, will the Government consider the advisability of increasing the limit to which they are legal tender?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied:

1. (a). A notice will be sent to Departments accordingly and a notification to the public on the subject of subsidiary coin generally is being considered.

(b). A debtor is bound to tender the exact amount of his debt in legal currency, but there is no objection to adding this to the notification.

2. The suggestion underlying this question is contrary to the accepted economic principles governing the issue of subsidiary coinage.

THE RICKSHA SERVICE.

Hon. Mr. OSBORNE asked:

3. Will the Government say what steps have been taken towards improving the Ricksha service, in view of what was stated in this Council on 7th June, 1906?

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE replied:—

The Government after careful investigation are of the opinion that, owing to the large decrease in the demand for rickshas incident upon the opening of the Electric Tramway, the licensees, if called upon to provide a better type of ricksha, will not have sufficient inducement to carry on their business unless the scale of fares is raised or the licence fee is reduced. It is considered that it would not be expedient to make either of these concessions.

It was decided in October last to abolish the restriction on the number of licences issued and to leave the matter of an improved service to private enterprise. There are grounds for believing that an experimental service of ricksha, of an improved type with rubber tyres may shortly be introduced.

GAP ROCK TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION.

Hon. Mr. OSBORNE asked:

4. Will the Government state how long telegraphic communication with Gap Rock has been interrupted?

5. In view of the approaching typhoon season will the Government take steps to have the cable repaired at an early date?

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS replied:

(4) Telegraphic communication with Gap Rock has been interrupted since the morning of the 18th September last, when the land-line was broken by the typhoon. The cable itself was broken by the typhoon of the 29th September.

(5) A Proposal for establishing a wireless installation is under consideration, pending settlement of which no steps are being taken to repair the cable.

BILLS OF EXCHANGE AMENDMENT
ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved that Council resolve itself into a committee of the whole Council to consider the Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the Bills of Exchange Ordinance, 1885.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The Bill was then considered clause by clause, after which Council resumed.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANK.

Hon. Mr. KESWICK moved the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance, to authorize the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation from time to time to increase the Capital of the said Corporation from the sum of Ten Millions of Dollars to a sum not exceeding the sum of Twenty Millions of Dollars; and to continue incorporated for a further term of 21 years; and to continue in force for a further period of 21 years the provisions of Section 3 of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Ordinance, 1899, with regard to the Excess Issue of Bills and Notes payable to bearer on demand.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

THE APPROPRIATION BILL.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the third reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to authorize the Appropriation of a Supplementary Sum of Four hundred and seventy-seven thousand eight hundred and forty-nine Dollars and fifty-three Cents, to defray the Charges of the Year 1906.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The bill was then read a third time, passed, and became law.

VALIDITY OF A JUDGE'S DECISIONS.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the third reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to remove doubts as to the validity of the proceedings of the Supreme Court of this Colony during the time that ALFRED GASCOYNE WISE, Esquire, held the office of Puisne Judge of such Court from the 25th day of June, 1902, down to the present time.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The bill was then read a third time, passed, and became law.

MARRIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the third reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the Married Women's Property Ordinance, 1906.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The Bill was then read a third time, passed, and became law.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Council stands adjourned until this day week.

STERLING SALARIES AGAIN.

DESERTIONS FROM THE POLICE.

The dissatisfaction which was manifest in the Hongkong Police some time ago at the low rate of remuneration consequent on the high dollar has become acute again, resulting in two men having resigned and three others having deserted during the week-end. It has always been the subject of complaint, once men came out here, that their position was not so good financially as they had expected and naturally this state of affairs has led to dissatisfaction which existed none the less though scarcely expressed. For instance, constables receive £100 a year which at present does not work out at \$80 a month, a wage which is decidedly inadequate for a European. Others are little better off, and it seems fair to assume that something will have to be done in the way of offering better wages and ensuring that the better class of men will remain in the Service.

With regard to the resignations, there were men who had joined locally and whose notice had expired. Two of the deserters were discovered to have absented themselves on Sunday and the third was missing the following day. There is no doubt that they have all left the colony.

SUPREME COURT.

Friday, May 31st.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

RENT D SPUTE.

Judgment was given by his Honour in the action in which the Colonial Treasurer sued Lo Tum for the recovery of the sum of \$1,365, the amount of rent for certain quarries in the New Territory for the months of January, February and March 1907. Mr. Morrell, from the Crown Solicitor's Office, appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Otto Kong Sing represented the defendant.

His Honour said the case was brought for the recovery of the rent of quarries under a Crown lease. For the defence it was stated that the defendant had written to the Registrar General cancelling the lease and resigning his position as tenant. The Registrar General accepted the resignation and cancellation and forwarded it to the Government for confirmation. The Government neither confirmed nor refused the cancellation but did what was the same as confirming it by requesting the Registrar General to find another tenant. The case was adjourned to hear the evidence of the Registrar General, and after hearing that, his Honour said he could not do anything else than find for the defendant. There would be judgment for defendant with costs.

In the other case where the Colonial Treasurer proceeded against Lo Fui on a similar claim for \$450, Mr. Otto Kong Sing applied for a rehearing, the case having been adjudged against the defendant, but execution deferred, pending the result of the previous case.

Mr. Morrell did not raise any objection and the order for rehearing was granted.

CLAIM FOR WAGES.

J. E. Watson claimed from A. C. Macmillan and another for \$1,000. Mr. E. J. Grist appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. Holborow from the office of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon represented the first defendant.

Mr. Holborow—My client has no knowledge of the claim.

Mr. Grist—It is for three months' wages at \$300 a month and \$100 board and lodgings.

His Honour—What is your client?

Mr. Holborow—He is a mining expert.

His Honour—Where is the second defendant?

Mr. Holborow—I don't think he can be found.

His Honour—Is he also a mining expert?

Mr. Grist—He is a mining engineer.

Mr. Holborow—My client says he is ignorant of the claim.

Mr. Grist—The first defendant is leaving the Colony to-morrow.

Mr. Holborow—My client is going to-morrow. He has very important business at Vancouver. It is necessary for him to go. He will be back in six weeks' time.

Subsequently Mr. Holborow asked for pleadings and an adjournment.

His Honour—I don't mind pleadings and an adjournment but it must be on conditions.

Mr. Grist—I ask for security.

Mr. Holborow—I am prepared to give it.

His Honour made an order for pleadings and adjourned the case for six weeks on defendant finding security for \$1,200.

Monday, June 3rd.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

CLAIM ON A MORTGAGE.

Chan Ki, of 237 Wing Lok Street, gentleman, sued David Sassoon and Co., Ltd., of 8A Des Voeux Road, merchants, to have an account taken of what, if anything, was due on a mortgage dated December 3rd, 1903, and made between the plaintiff of the first part, Lo Koon-hing of the second part and the defendants of the third part, and to redeem the property comprised therein.

Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. C. D. Wilkinson (of Messrs Wilkinson and Grist) appeared for the plaintiff, the defendant being represented by Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C.,

instructed by Mr. H. W. Looker (of Messrs Deacon, Looker and Deacon).

The statement of claim set out that by an indenture of mortgage dated December 30th, 1903, the plaintiff assigned to the defendants a parcel of ground registered in the Land Office as section A. of Inland Lot No. 797 by way of mortgage, to secure the payment to the defendant company by one, Lo-Koon-hing, the compradore of the defendant company, of any monies due by the said Lo Koon-hing as in the said indenture provided. On November 23rd, 1906, the defendant company gave notice to the plaintiff that there was then due by the said Lo Koon-hing to the defendant company under obligation as compradore, the sum of \$300,000, and in the month of December 1906, the defendant company entered into possession of the said mortgaged property, and have since collected rents and profits thereon. The plaintiff was ready and willing to pay whatever sum, if any, was further due to the defendant company under and by virtue of the said indenture of mortgage. The plaintiff claimed an account of what, if anything, was due and owing by the plaintiff company under and by virtue of the said mortgage, and redemption.

The defendants admitted in the statement of defence that under the provisions of the indenture of mortgage referred to in the statement of claim, they now held section A. of Inland Lot 797 as security for the payment to them by Lo Koon-hing of the sum of \$407,235.58 which sum was due and owing by the said Lo Koon-hing as their compradore. The defendants denied that the plaintiff was either ready or willing to pay to them the said sum of \$407,235.58 or any other sum which was due to the defendants under and by virtue of the said indenture of mortgage.

Mr. Slade stated that while not ready to pay the defendants the amount they claimed, his client was perfectly willing to pay everything that was due. Before dealing with accounts, he wished to say a word regarding the procedure in a redemption suit. Here we followed the home practice. As soon as the facts were admitted that a mortgagor had, when his mortgage was admitted and he was admitted to be mortgagor—that was to say, that the assignment he had made was admitted to be by way of mortgage and not by way of assignment, then the mortgagor was at any time absolutely entitled to judgment for redemption.

Mr. Pollock said the mortgage was not in the ordinary form, and asserted that so long as there was a claim against the compradore there could be no re-assignment—no redemption. The plaintiff had not established any right to redeem. Defendants had a claim, and on that claim had taken possession of the property. The agreement signed by plaintiff specified particularly that the European books of the defendant firm were to be taken as conclusive proof of the amount due. The books were kept in detail and reasonable inspection would be allowed. Apart from any suggestion of fraud, Mr. Pollock argued that the books must be taken as conclusive. All he had to do was to show that his client has suffered a loss on any contract for which the compradore was liable to take away the right of redemption.

After argument on legal points His Lordship ordered accounts to be taken, inquiry made, and inspection given. He gave judgment on clause 12 of the agreement between the parties and on the power of sale, an ultimate form of judgment to be given in the event of it being held to be included in the mortgage. Any question of interpretation to be raised specially. Accounts to be taken in three months, with liberty to apply for an extension of time.

Wednesday, June 5th.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE), WITH CAPTAIN M. BRISON (NAUTICAL ASSessor).

AN ECHO OF THE TYPHOON.

Chi Wo and Co., of 29 Wing Wo Lane, ship-builders, claimed from the Famigating and Disinfecting Bureau Ltd., of 3 Pedder Street,

the sum of \$4,023, being the amount of damages sustained by the steam launch *Hoi Po* in consequence of her having, on the night of October 21st, 1906, struck the hulk *Stanfield* in the harbour.

Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., instructed by Mr. A. Jackson (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. F. P. Hett (of Messrs. Brutton and Hett) for the defendants.

The statement of claim showed that the plaintiffs were owners of the steam launch *Hoi Po*, and were shipbuilders carrying on business at 29 Wing Wo Lane. Defendants were the owners of the sunken hulk *Stanfield*, and carried on business at 3 Pedder Street. The hulk *Stanfield* foundered and sunk in Yaumati Bay during the typhoon of September 18th. It continued to be and was on October 21st, at the time of the happening of the injury hereafter mentioned, in the possession, and under direction, management and control of the defendant company. The said hulk was allowed to remain sunk in a position dangerous to navigation without sufficient steps being taken to indicate her position, or warn approaching vessels of it. Prior to October 21st the defendants had been directed by the Harbour Master to affix a light to the said sunken hulk for the purpose of indicating her position, and on the day in question there was no light affixed to the said hulk, nor anything to indicate her position. At 10.30 on the night of October 21st the *Hoi Po*, while on her way from Mongkok-tui to Hongkong, could not and did not see the sunken hulk, owing to her position not being indicated, and in consequence came into collision with the said sunken hulk, unlighted as aforesaid, at a time when the tide was just on the turn, and as the tide ebbed the *Hoi Po* gradually sunk. In consequence of the injuries sustained by the *Hoi Po* by reason of the said collision, the *Hoi Po* was unable to earn any profits from October 22nd to November 12th inclusive. The plaintiffs had also incurred expenses in raising and refloating and repairing the *Hoi Po*. The plaintiffs therefore claimed \$4,023 damages, made up as follows:—Loss of profits, \$50 a day, from October 22nd to November 12th, \$1,100; cost of raising the *Hoi Po*, \$1,800, and cost of repairs \$1,123.

The defence set forth that the defendants did not know and could not admit that the plaintiffs were owners of the *Hoi Po*, but admitted that plaintiffs were shipbuilders. They further admitted that up to September 18th, 1906, they were the owners of the hulk *Stanfield*, but stated that prior to October 21st they had abandoned the hulk to the Yangtze Insurance Co. Ltd., the insurers thereof as being a total loss. They denied that on October 21st the hulk was in their possession, and under their management, direction or control. It was also admitted that prior to October 21st the defendants had been requested by the Harbour Master to affix a light to the sunken hulk, but denied that they were under any obligation to affix such light. On October 21st the hulk was, at all material times, lighted with a red single light showing all round. Defendants did not admit that the *Hoi Po* on October 21st came into collision with the hulk, or was injured in any way, and say that if the *Hoi Po* did collide with the sunken hulk it was owing to the negligence of those in charge in not keeping the proper lookout, and in navigating the *Hoi Po* in an improper and reckless manner, and at an excessive speed.

Sir Henry Berkeley submitted that under the law notwithstanding what passed between the Yangtze Insurance Company, and the defendants, the hulk remains in the possession of the latter. A ship could only pass from one to another in a particular way under the Merchant Shipping Act. The claiming from an insurance company on a total loss does not in any way pass the property. His position was that in law the defendants were the owners of the hulk on the day the *Hoi Po* struck her, and even if they were not owner they were in actual possession, management and control of the wreck. Therefore it followed that the legal obligation of anyone having the management, direction and control of a wreck was to take the necessary steps to prevent that wreck becoming

a danger to navigation. Defendants admitted that the Harbour Master required them to place a light on the wreck; in fact, they pleaded that they did light. He thought the case would turn on the fact as to whether or not the hulk was lighted on the night of the collision. The representative of the defendant company, Mr. Gorham, claimed from the Yangtze Insurance Co. £30,000 for total loss, which claim the Insurance Co. was not prepared to accept. Ultimately it was set out in another letter and agreed that Mr. Gorham should accept £26,000, value of the hulk, and £10,000 for machinery, and that he should retain possession of the hulk until he had salvaged the machinery. It was while the salvaging was going on that the *Hoi Po* ran on the sunken wreck. If it was a fact that the *Stanfield* was not lighted on the night of the 21st, and in consequence the *Hoi Po* struck her, then the owner of the *Stanfield* must be liable, and their contention was that on the night in question the hulk was not lighted.

Evidence was called, and the case adjourned.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

ANOTHER EMPLOYEE'S AGREEMENT CASE.

The Great Northern Telegraph Co. Ltd. sued C. F. Franco to recover \$25, being damages for breach of agreement, whereby the defendant agreed to serve the plaintiff company as telegraph operator upon the terms and conditions (inter alia) that the agreement could be terminated only by three months' notice in writing, which condition the defendant failed to observe.

Mr. E. J. Grist (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. P. W. Goldring (of Messrs. Goldring and Earlow) for the defendant.

His Lordship—The agreement is admitted, is it not?

Mr. Goldring—Yes, my Lord. It is merely a question of damages. We have paid \$25 into Court, and say it is the extent of the damage.

R. Nielsen, manager of the plaintiff Company at Hongkong, said he employed the defendant who signed a preliminary agreement for three years. At the end of that time he signed the agreement before the Court, which made his appointment definite. When the second agreement was signed he was sent to Amoy. The Company paid him salary of \$30, and granted him an extra allowance. In the beginning of April the defendant said he was sick, and gave a week's notice. He did not conceal the fact that he was coming to Hongkong to another position, and later gave one month's notice.

Mr. Grist—As regards the damage there is his fare.

Mr. Goldring—That is provided for by his agreement.

Witness, continuing, said the defendant had been taught his duties during the three years he was in the Company's employment. When he left, his work had to be distributed among the staff.

Mr. Goldring objected. The witness could not speak as to what happened at Amoy.

Witness—I am duly informed of what happens at the Amoy branch.

Mr. Goldring—That is not evidence, my Lord.

Witness, proceeding, stated that in consequence of the defendant's leaving, there had been a considerable amount of trouble at the Amoy branch.

His Lordship—I should like to know about this \$250 damages?

Mr. Grist—The man becomes valuable to the Company after learning his work, then he suddenly quits.

His Lordship—I don't know how the other side arrive at \$25.

Mr. Goldring—I have a letter showing that my client had a man to take his place. He was only a clerk, not an operator. We contend they suffered a loss of not more than \$25, the cost of letters and telegrams. The defendant is a minor, but, of course, I cannot plead that.

Mr. Grist—Even if my friend could plead it, I should have no trouble in showing that the contract was for his own benefit, and would be upheld by any Court.

In cross-examination, witness said they brought the present action as a warning to other operators who might wish to break their agreements.

Mr. Goldring—As a matter of fact, this man was never an operator?—He was a counter clerk.

And his principal duties?—To charge telegrams.

That work is done by Chinese usually, isn't it?—By Chinese, Portuguese and Europeans.

A Chinaman is quite competent to do the work after being trained?—He is not.

Then why do you employ Chinese?—They are incompetent because, as a rule, they know very little about geography.

His Lordship, after hearing the solicitor's address, said he thought \$25 was an absurd sum. It might be hard on the defendant to have to pay more, but it was equally hard on the Company for him to break his agreement and go home. Out of pocket, perhaps, the damage did not amount to the sum mentioned, but his Lordship certainly thought the inconvenience suffered in sending him up to Amoy did. There had been too many of these breaches of agreements of late by captains, clerks and others, to further their own ends. The defendant would have to pay \$100 as damages.

Tuesday, June 6th.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

A DISPUTED MORTGAGE.

His Lordship decided on some of the preliminary points in the application brought on last week to set aside a deed of mortgage. The parties were Long Kee of the firm of Messrs. Fook Wo Chong, merchants carrying on business at 36, Wing Lok Street and Ng Wai, merchant, carrying on business in Hongkong. The Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., and Mr. H. G. Calthrop (instructed by Mr. A. G. Jackson of Messrs. Johnson Stokes and Master) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. M. W. Slade (instructed by Mr. G. K. Hall Brutton) represented the defendant.

His Lordship said:—

The agreement to engage the compradore, signed immediately after the mortgage which was given as security for the compradore's due performance of his duties, and the fulfilment of his liabilities as such, should on general principles I think be construed, as far as necessary and possible as one document with the mortgage security, for the mortgage contains an extended summary of those duties and liabilities. I do not think this general principle is affected by the fact that the agreement is made use of for the purpose of completing the security by the deposit of \$20,000 cash, which deposit, it is to be observed, was made by the mortgagor. But in the case of the twelfth clause of the agreement the reference to losses resulting from sales, etc., seems clearly to refer to the losses which are specially mentioned in the clause of the mortgage which makes the compradore liable to pay such losses. I am therefore of opinion that clause 12 of the agreement governs the liability clauses of the mortgage in the matters to which it refers. With regard to the mortgagee's power of sale I confess I have some difficulty, as although it must be a point of practice frequently arising, the standard books do not throw too much light on it. The nearest case I can find to the present is *Rhodes v. Auckland* (16 L. O. R. 212). It is not on all fours, but I think it will guide me to, I hope, a correct decision. I think in such a case as the present the mortgagee has clearly a right to redeem, and therefore to the amount, enquiry and inspection which I have given him. The consequence of this essentially is that the power of sale is in suspense till the enquiry is complete. The mortgagee, however, as I understand, does not intend to press the sale, of which he has given the mortgagor notice, and therefore I will not go into the question whether, and on what terms, I should restrain its going forward. The mortgagee asks however for an express declaration in the decree that his power of sale is not affected by

it. I do not think this necessary because it is the direct result of the decree for redemption which is that the action stands dismissed if the enquiry is not conducted within the time fixed. If the action for redemption is dismissed the power of sale must revert.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

SETTLED.

The action was set down in which Messrs Sennet Frères, of Queen's Road Central, sued James Roberts of Hongkong for the recovery of the sum of \$480, being the balance due by defendant to the plaintiff firm for a diamond ring sold and delivered by that firm to the defendant. Before the case was called, the solicitors concerned had a consultation after which his Honour took the case in chambers, judgment being subsequently entered for plaintiffs for half the amount, \$240.

Friday, 7th June.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE), WITH CAPTAIN MORRISON (NAUTICAL ASSESSOR).

AN ECHO OF THE TYPHOON.

Chi Wo & Co., of 29 Wing Wo Lane, ship-builders, claimed from the Fumigating and Disinfecting Bureau Ltd. of 3 Pedder Street, the sum of \$4,023, being the amount of damages sustained by the steam launch *Hoi Po* in consequence of her having, on the night of October 21st, 1906, struck the hulk *Stanfield* in the harbour.

Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., instructed by Mr. A. Jackson (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. F. F. Hett (of Messrs. Brutton and Hett) for the defendants.

The case for the plaintiffs having closed, Mr. Slade opened the defence. He submitted firstly, that the plaintiffs had not made out a case, and secondly, that this being an action at common law, the case must be dismissed without calling on the defendants to give any evidence by reason of contributory negligence. On the first point he submitted that in law it was perfectly clear Mr. Gorham was not the owner and had not the responsibility of owner. It was admitted that he had claimed for total loss, and had been paid for total loss on the hull. The effect of that was to divest him of all interest and all responsibility for the hull. The machinery in this case was not portion of the hull or the ship in any sense of the word. It was disinfecting machinery, therefore was just in the same position as goods on board. Having entirely abandoned all his rights in the vessel to the Insurance Co. Mr. Gorham was not the owner and had none of the liabilities of owner. Mr. Slade quoted authorities for his contention, and submitted that it was plain law the defendant had no obligations with regard to the lighting of the vessel. When defendant abandoned the hull he made arrangements with the Insurance Co. to accept \$6,000 out of \$10,000 (which he could have insisted on having) and the machinery. The Company therefore gave up their salvage on the machinery to the original owner. They had to make arrangements with Mr. Gorham to enable him to go on their property in order to take his machinery; and that was what was done. The terms of the letter (put in) would have been no different had the ship been floating. The owners permitted Mr. Gorham to go on board their property to get out the machinery which he had bought from them, and agreed not to dispose of the hull to any other person until he had removed the machinery.

His Lordship—Didn't they lend him the hull?

Mr. Slade—They allowed him to go upon it. It is their property. He does not need to go on the hull at night. He works there in the day time. You must look at this strictly on the rights and obligations of the parties. The owner does not cease to be responsible for the maintenance of his property because he gives permission to a third party to go upon it

for the purpose of a particular object. If this machinery had been in a house the owner would not have got rid of his obligations to keep the house in repair by reason of permitting a third party to go there and remove the machinery.

His Lordship—There are other cases where a third party assumes liability.

Mr. Slade—Is it necessary in the salving of machinery by daylight, the defendant should light the property by night?

His Lordship—It was said in examination that he undertook to do the lighting.

Mr. Slade—After November 15th.

His Lordship—The collision occurred during the time of the salvage operations?

Mr. Slade—Yes, but as a matter of fact nobody lighted the hulk until October 11th.

His Lordship—And the collision was on the 21st?

Mr. Slade—Yes.

Sir Henry Berkeley—And they plead to lighting it by order of the Harbour Master?

Mr. Slade—We lighted it at the request of the Harbour Master.

Sir Henry Berkeley—And the legal obligation follows?

Mr. Slade—Oh, please, now! Proceeding. Counsel stated that at the request of the Harbour Master, from a date prior to the 21st, Mr. Gorham did light the lamp. His Lordship would see from the evidence of Mr. Campbell of the Insurance Co. that that gentleman had done his level best to shift all responsibility on to Mr. Gorham. There could be no doubt of that from the way he answered questions and avoided answering questions. But the agreement under which Mr. Gorham went on to the wreck was perfectly plain. It was not alleged by Mr. Campbell that there was any subsidiary agreement with regard to the lighting, or with regard to anything else, that carried with it any obligation to do anything that was not necessary in connection with the salving of machinery. The point was one of material importance, not merely in this case but in all cases regarding owners of wrecks. It was perfectly plain that there was no liability on the owner of a wreck for lighting, after he had abandoned it.

Evidence was called, and the case again adjourned.

CAUTION TO THE CHARITABLE.

A very glaring case of misplaced charity has been before the shipping community for some few weeks in Hongkong. A woman of matronly appearance, who looks about forty years of age, has been in the habit of going on board ships that enter the port and presenting a written appeal, backed up by a most plausible story, for money to enable her to secure her passage to Sydney, where she has friends who will assist her. She explains her helplessness here by the fact that she has now references but hopes to obtain suitable employment in Australia, adding of course that she will be very grateful for any help received. She has pitched this tale very successfully on quite a number of vessels and has moved the hearts of many to make very substantial contributions to what they believed was her passage money. Only a few days ago a gentleman gave her £5 which, needless to say, went the way of the rest. Her deceit first came to light when she went to Canton several weeks ago and presented a written appeal, signing herself Mrs. H. Stanley. The British Consul there wrote on the subscription list that this appeared to be a deserving case, and with this recommendation she went round the commercial houses on the Shameen and in a short time had collected about \$240, more than the \$225 which she stated was sufficient to pay her passage to Sydney. However, on the way down to Hongkong she spent a large part of this on champagne and became so helplessly intoxicated that she lost her subscription list.

It is well known that her passage money has been collected about eight or nine times over, and she is still here telling the same plausible story to passengers and officers on board European and American vessels. Those who are disposed to be charitable should take warning and treat such a case as it deserves.

AN ENGINEER'S DEATH.

Mr. F. A. Hazeland, sitting as coroner, conducted on the 3rd June at the Magistracy an inquiry concerning the death of Sapper J. C. Kelly, of the Royal Engineers, who on May 26th succumbed to injuries received by falling from a scaffolding at Wellington Barracks. The jury consisted of Messrs. W. H. Percell, R. Aitken, and L. N. Alvares.

Lieut. Fraser, R.A.M.C., stated that on May 26th Sapper Kelly was brought to the hospital in an unconscious condition, with large bruises on the back and right side below the ribs. There were slight abrasions on both shins, as well as over the toes on both feet. He was breathing rapidly. Witness was able to feel two fractures of the skull. Death was due to multiple injuries.

Corporal Mounce, R.E., said that he was orderly corporal and remembered calling the roll at 1 p.m. on May 26th. Sapper Kelly answered to his name. He was then sitting on his bed and appeared to be all right. Lights were turned out at 11.15 and deceased should have been in bed then. At 11.15 witness, while standing on the verandah of the first floor, heard a crash in the direction of the bamboo scaffolding and saw something heavy fall. The body struck the scaffolding three times before reaching the ground. Witness at once went to see what had happened and saw the body of a man lying under the verandah. With two companions he hurried below and found Sapper Kelly lying on his back unconscious. He had the body at once removed to the military hospital.

Lance Corporal Pascoe, R.E., spoke to having seen deceased in the canteen on the night in question. He had had several drinks. At the north side of the barracks there is a bamboo ladder, up which he had seen Sapper Kelly climb about a week before his death. He cautioned him about it, telling him that it was not safe, but in spite of that he saw Kelly on the ladder a day or two afterwards.

Coy. Sergt. Major Vigar said the deceased arrived in the Colony in December, 1905. He was very obedient but gave way to drink to some extent, being very easily led.

His Worship remarked that no one saw him fall, but it was obvious what had happened.

The jury returned a verdict of death from misadventure.

"IS HE A CHINAMAN, OR—?"

HONGKONG PLOWDENISMS.

Following the line suggested by our correspondent on May 31st who referred to the question asked by the Chairman of the Commission as to whether a man possessing the name of Ng San Kwong was a Chinaman "or a Portuguese," the Puisse Judge became facetious yesterday in the Supreme Court when the name of Sum Jen was called. "It looks like Some Jam," he said. "I suppose I must ask questions like the Commissioners, and inquire what his nationality is." When the man entered the box his Honour told the interpreter to ask "What nationality is he? Is he a Straits Chinaman?" "No," was the answer.

Not long afterwards another Chinaman was in the witness box who gave the name of Britannia Wong. No questions were asked him as to his nationality.

TO CHECK "DUMPING."

One of our readers, who has ignored the rule requiring all letters to be authenticated sends us a letter with suggestions to check "dumping".

He proposes that a heavy penalty should follow all convictions of persons responsible, and that to secure convictions a reward of say five dollars be offered for denunciations of "dumpers." If photographs of all dumped bodies were taken and exposed, he thinks that the suppression of the practice would be further assured. He says: "If one admits that, even in a crowded Chinese house, a man cannot disappear without someone noticing his absence, and that the latter, by referring to the published photographs, could see if the missing person, had been dumped, it would be surprising if the reward did not elicit the required information."

COLLISION IN THE HARBOUR.

"CHOISING" SUNK.

On June 5th a collision took place in the harbour between the German steamer *Choising* outward bound to Bangkok and the German oil steamer *Verona* inward bound. Particulars were difficult to obtain last night but the message from Green Island received at 5-5 was to the effect that the collision took place in the middle of the Sulphur Channel, and that the *Choising* sank, stem downwards, opposite the gunpowder dépôt. The *Verona* proceeded back to the harbour and anchored off the Standard Oil Company's godowns.

The *Choising*, which belonged to the Nord-deutscher Lloyd Orient Linie, was a steamer of 1,021 tons. Only her stem is under water, the after part remaining intact and her engines going. Before darkness set in, it was noticed she had steam up. No lives have been reported lost. Doubtless the collision took place in the blinding squall that occurred after four o'clock.

Following the above report of the collision between the German steamer *Choising* outward bound, and the German oil steamer *Verona*, inward bound, a representative of the *Daily Press* visited the wreck of the former vessel. A little distance beyond the Naphtha Godown at West Point the s.s. *Choising* lies hard by the shore on a rocky and uneven bottom, her stern and propeller showing above the water line, while her stem is submerged almost to the main deck, and the ship's bell at low tide floats above the water like the bell of the Inchcape Rock. The shore in the vicinity is strewn with hatch covers and matting which formed part of the cargo. Here we might pause to correct an error regarding Captain Simonsen. It was stated in a previous report that he was in command of the *Choising* at the time of the collision. This is not so. The Captain had relinquished his post some days previously, being succeeded by Captain Raubfuss, who has had the misfortune to come to grief in his first command.

Putting off in a sampan to the wreck our reporter sought and found Captain Raubfuss who stated that on Wednesday afternoon, at about fifteen minutes past four o'clock, he cast off from his buoy opposite the China Merchants' wharf, steamed through the two fairway buoys and proceeded through the Sulphur Channel. In front of him was the *Verona*, passing on the other side of Green Island. When he got nearer he saw her on the right side of the Island rounding a bend, and making to cross the channel. As the Captain was of opinion that he could not pass her on that side, he altered his course to port, but the *Verona* kept on as before. When he altered his course to starboard he blew two blasts on his whistle, and on steering further to the left, sounded the whistle twice again. The *Verona's* whistle was then sounded once, which meant that she was going to starboard, whereas it should have been sounded twice. The last whistle blew too late, and when the Captain saw that a collision was imminent he put his engines full astern. About a minute afterwards, at about 4.36 p.m., the vessels collided. The *Verona* was travelling about slow, while the *Choising's* engines indicated full steam ahead, but as steam was not then up, she would not be travelling at her seagoing speed. At the time of collision the *Choising* had a general cargo of 800 tons, and carried about twenty Chinese deck passengers. Although the *Verona* stood by after the collision she did not lower any boats, so when the Captain found that his ship was making water fast, her starboard bow being opened up from the deck to the keel, he immediately put out two boats and landed the passengers. Then he beached his ship.

Captain Dobronz, of the *Verona*, stated that on the morning of the collision his vessel had reached port from New York, laden with oil and general cargo, and dropped anchor in the Dangerous Goods anchorage. At four o'clock on the same afternoon the anchor was weighed and the vessel proceeded outside of Green Island to cross the Sulphur Channel, and steam alongside the Standard Oil Company's wharf. *Choising* was observed bearing down as the

Verona steamed slowly for the Hongkong side of the channel. The latter vessel blew one blast, and *Choising* responded with one, which meant that the Captain was to continue on this course. He was therefore surprised when although there was sufficient room for the *Choising* to pass on the Green Island side of the channel, she bore over towards him. It was then that he blew one blast and stopped his engines, but instead of answering the *Choising* went ahead, and when close to the *Verona* blew two blasts. Then the Captain ordered full speed astern, but it was too late. Within a minute the vessels struck, and the *Choising* having speed on, ran aground. After standing by for a time the Captain took his ship to the wharf, where it was found that her bow was slightly damaged, and that she was making water.

TWO SUSPECTED SUICIDES.

The pond at the Cotton Mills, East Point, seems to have special attraction for those wishing to end their days. Within the last two days, the bodies of two women have been dragged therefrom. Suicide is suspected in each instance.

The body found in the pond on May 30th has been identified as that of a woman who is said to have been half demented. Her mother has been ill for some weeks, and deceased continued to nurse her until Thursday, when they had a difference. Because the mother asked for a cup of tea, the daughter told her that she was giving her too much work to do. The mother replied that if the daughter did not care to tend her, she could return to her husband. The daughter left the sick bed, and is believed to have jumped into the pond and drowned herself.

The body discovered in the pond yesterday morning was found to be that of a woman about 40 years of age. There were no marks of violence on the body, and as jewellery was found on the person of the deceased, the inference drawn by the police is that it was another case of suicide. The woman has not yet been identified.

NEW TYPHOON SIGNALS.

Some desirable improvements in local typhoon warnings are announced in the *Government Gazette*. The day signals remain as before, but in place of the typhoon gun (which was liable to be mistaken for a mail signal) the urgent signal is to be three explosive bombs, fired at intervals of ten seconds. This signal will be made at the Water Police Station and repeated at the Harbour Office. A black cross will be hoisted at the same time, superior to the other shapes. The night signals are also improved.

NIGHT SIGNALS.

The following Night Signals will be exhibited from the Flagstaff on the roof of the Water Police Station at Kowloon, the Harbour Office Flagstaff, and H.M.S. *Tamar*.

I. Three Lights Vertical, Green Green Green. Indicates that a typhoon is believed to be situated more than 300 miles from the Colony.

II. Three Lights Vertical, Green Red Green. Indicates that a typhoon is believed to be situated less than 300 miles from the Colony.

III. Three Lights Vertical, Red Green Red. Indicates that the wind may be expected to increase to full typhoon force at any moment.

No. III. signal will be accompanied by the Explosive Bombs, as above, in the event of the information conveyed by this signal being first published by night.

These Night Signals will be substituted for the Day Signals at sunset, and will, when necessary, be altered during the night.

SUPPLEMENTARY WARNINGS.

For the benefit of Native Craft and passing Ocean Vessels, a cone will be exhibited at each of the following stations during the time that any of the above Day Signals are hoisted in the Harbour.

Gap Rock	Aberdeen
Waglan	Sai Kung
Stanley	Tai Po
Cape Collinson	

This will indicate that there is a depression somewhere in the China Sea, and that a Storm Warning is hoisted in the Harbour.

EXTRAORDINARY STORY OF IMPOSTURE.

SOLDIER POSING AS A PARSON.

The police have arrested and handed over to the military authorities a man who has been, to put it mildly, having a good time at the expense of several people in the Colony. His name is given as Brown, but in some places he has been known as Jones. At any rate he is a plump ruddy young man, pleasantly spoken, with an accent suggestive of Wales. When first he became known in civil life he told a story of having purchased his discharge from the Army and having received an appointment with the Dock Company. He took rooms at the Y.M.C.A. and afterwards moved to Pelham House. Here, he contrived to lose \$200, which he said he had in his pocket book and which he must have dropped in the street. Of course the inevitable followed. He borrowed money to tide him over his temporary difficulties, while he declared that he would get a cheque book and avoid such contingencies in future. One of the men from whom he obtained a loan pressed him for repayment but he always had some excuse as to his inability to have access to his cheque book. Either it was at the Y.M.C.A. or the boy had locked his trunk. At any rate his cheques were never produced. Determined to wait no longer this creditor accompanied him to his residence one night and told him he could obtain a cheque from a mutual acquaintance. To this Jones—he was Jones at this time—consented, but before this little formality could be put through there was a corporal at the door who insisted on Jones putting on his hat and accompanying him. Then it transpired that he was wanted as a deserter. Nothing more was heard of him for a time. This week, however, some people who knew him in Hongkong happened to be in one of the Kowloon hotels and were surprised to come across Jones. The latter at once made himself scarce again, but he fell into the hands of the police on Thursday. Apparently he had broken out of barracks and went across to Kowloon where he boarded at the hotel and afterwards resided at a private house where he posed as the Rev. Mr. Hope. In this character he talked about having been asked to preach in the Wesleyan Church on Sunday but did not think he would so as he was not feeling very well. He will be dealt with by the military authorities.

SIMPLE CHINAMEN.

The simplicity of the Chinaman is regarded as one of those qualities that really does not exist, but experience here proves that the native from the country is very guileless indeed. This is particularly seen in the ease with which some designing man can kidnap them or entice them into contracts the meaning of which they do not realise. The emigration traffic lends itself to abuses in this way and another illustration of this was furnished on Wednesday night when two coolies jumped from off the s.s. *Ajax*, near Green Island. Neither of the men could swim but apparently they did not like the idea of being taken to Singapore and accordingly threw themselves overboard. Fortunately for them the Harbour master's launch was in the vicinity and picked them both up, one man being in a very exhausted condition. They were sent to the Central Police Station where they told their stories. They alleged that they were enticed on board by a hawker whom they could not recognise. One man said that he told the hawker he was looking for his brother and the latter informed him that he was on the *Ajax*. When he went on board he was informed that his brother had gone to Singapore whither it was insinuated he should follow him. As his protest was not very vigorous he did not realise what was happening until the vessel steamed out of the harbour.

H.E. the Officer Administering the Government has been pleased to appoint Mr. Henry Keswick, provisionally and subject to His Majesty's pleasure, to be an unofficial member of the Legislative Council with effect from the 23rd ultimo, during the absence of the honourable Mr. William Jardine Gresson, or until further notice.

HONGKONG POST OFFICE.

The report on the Post Office department for the year 1906, published in the *Gazette* reads as follows:—

STAFF.

1. Of the higher Officers Mr. E. C. Lewis, the assistant postmaster general, was on leave from 11th July and Mr. A. J. Reed, the accountant, from 30th May, till the end of the year.

2. Among the clerks, sorters and shroffs, one was pensioned, two resigned, two were dismissed and two died and one was transferred to another Department. In Shanghai two clerks resigned and one was dismissed.

3. Three new appointments were made to the Western Branch Post Office which was reopened on 1st July.

MAILS.

4. The number of mail bags and packets dealt with in the General Post Office, Hongkong, amounted to 160,921 as against 138,897 in 1905. Further details are given in Table I.

REGISTRATION AND PARCEL BRANCH.

5. Registered articles and parcels handled in Hongkong shew a very considerable increase namely 770,820 against 638,977. The total for the Administration, including Shanghai and British Agencies in China, is 926,387, an increase of 183,597 as shown in Table II.

6. During the year ending 31st December, 1905, 3,355 articles and 5 parcels evidently intended to be despatched by registered or parcel post were found in the drop box of the General Office. They were sent to the registration branch and forwarded.

7. An arrangement for the transmission of insured letters direct between the Straits Settlements and Hongkong came into force on the 1st December, 1906.

8. On the 19th September, 1906, a messenger of the Kwong Man Fung firm was found guilty at the Criminal Sessions of obtaining by means of a forged signature and seal four registered letters from America, he was sentenced to five years hard labour.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

9. A statement of revenue and expenditure is given in Table III. Revenue amounted to \$420,454.4 showing an increase of \$5,615.85 over that of 1905 and an excess of \$10,454.54 over the estimate. Expenditure came to \$359,484.08 and the profit on the Department to \$60,969.96 or 14½ per cent. The very considerable saving on the estimated expenditure is principally due to the higher rate of exchange which affected sterling payments for transit charges and mail subsidies. Increase in working expenses is divided as follows:—

Salaries, Hongkong	\$ 3,023.87
Cost of stamps	11,010.05
Rent of extension Site, Shanghai...	2,103.42
Fittings, Tientsin	1,106.81
Other heads of expenditure	212.23
	\$ 17,456.38

POSTAGE STAMPS.

10. A comparative statement of the issues of stamps for sale shows a falling off in the values from \$1 to \$10 which are used largely for revenue as distinguished from postal purposes.

MONEY ORDERS.

11. With the exception of inward orders from Japan and silver dollar countries the transactions of the Money Order Office shew a substantial increase over that of the previous year. The orders from the Straits, Borneo and Federated Malay States shew a remarkable falling off since the Straits dollar was fixed at 2s. 4d. The issues by Japan in 1905 were abnormal, one Chinese firm alone in Daitoai, Formosa, remitting \$13,000. There is a drop in 1906 of 200 orders in the number issued by the Japanese Post Offices in North China to the British Indian Troops who sent their remittances to India through the intermediary of Hongkong.

12. The apparent falling off in the issue of sterling orders is due to the fact that prior to 1906 all orders on Germany were advised through London. The issues and receipts from Germany equal marks 73,000 which more than counterbalance the deficiency of £1,500.

13. The increase of £3,000 from the United Kingdom and also increase in the number of British Postal Orders paid is accounted for by the greater number of Chinese seamen and

laundrymen in the United Kingdom, principally in London, Liverpool, Cardiff, Birkenhead, Manchester, Belfast, Hull, Newport, North Shields and South Shields.

14. Notwithstanding the reduction of the British Fleet in China waters the sale of British Postal Orders is £1,000 more than in 1905.

15. Since December last the amount of orders from London has been greatly augmented by Chinese transit orders from Mexico, each week's list varying from £450 to £950.

16. A direct exchange of money orders with Cape Colony came into force on the 1st January and a proposal for the extension of direct exchange to the Colony of Kiangtshou is now under consideration.

EXTENSION OF POSTAL FACILITIES.

17. Pillar Boxes were erected and daily deliveries started at Pokfulam on 21st March and at Kowloon City on 3rd October. In Victoria three new pillar boxes were placed at certain points on the higher levels.

18. The total number of articles collected during the year from all pillar boxes was 122,899 as against 48,110, 66,746 and 92,170 for the three previous years.

19. The Western Branch Post Office was reopened near the Canton and Macao Wharf with a view to meeting the requirements of Chinese correspondence, principally to Canton, in co-operation with the Imperial Chinese Post Office which now is in a position to displace the private letter carrier-system. 584,484 letters were received and despatched as well as 3,400 registered articles, and the revenue from the sale of stamps amounted to \$14,724.20 against an expenditure of \$1,819.95.

20. In Shanghai extensive alterations and additions were made to the British Post Office and there is now sufficient space for dealing with the very large amount of mail matter passing through that office. The accommodation for the public has been much improved.

21. An agency was opened at Tientsin on 1st October. The monthly expenditure averaged \$687 and the revenue \$800. The amount of mail matter handled shews that it proved of convenience to the public.

22. The New Branch Office at Kowloon was completed on 1st September and occupied a few days later. The temporary office on the Star Ferry pier was completely destroyed in the Typhoon a fortnight later.

DEAD LETTER OFFICE.

23. The total number of all articles returned to and despatched from Hongkong amounted to 71,668, viz., 34,924 of the former and 36,644 of the latter showing an increase on those reported in the previous year of 8,183.

24. The following correspondence failed to be delivered at this office, viz., Foreign letters 8,980, post cards 1,534, other articles 6,240, local letters 946, post cards and other articles 1,301.

25. The practice referred to in last year's report (posting of coin in unregistered letters) still continued, 58 such letters were detected, and where the sender's name and address could be discovered returned.

26. Among the unregistered letters returned to this office some were found to contain cheques, bank notes, drafts and local and imperial money orders.

27. There were 65 post cards posted bearing neither name nor address of party for whom they were intended and many of them lacked the sender's name. 52 cards bearing imitations of postage stamps were also posted addressed to the United Kingdom and being prohibited there were returned to the senders where possible.

28. In the mails from other countries 1,216 articles were found without address, of which 393 were delivered to claimants. For the rest no enquiries were made.

GENERAL.

29. During the Typhoon already mentioned two bags of mails containing ten registered articles were lost in the S.S. *Apenrade*.

30. On the 2nd October a mail recovered from the wreck of S.S. *Akashi Maru* was brought to the General Post Office with a large proportion of the Chinese correspondence so damaged as to render the addresses undecipherable.

31. On the 14th October 6 bags, 10 boxes and one loose letter box were destroyed in the fire on S.S. *Hankow*.

HONGKONG GYMKHANA CLUB.

SECOND GYMKHANA.

The second meeting of the Hongkong Gymkhana Club was held at Happy Valley on June 1st, when notwithstanding the unfavourable weather, there was a large attendance. The continuous rain, however, marred the pleasure of the proceedings, the flat being deserted. Most of the spectators spent the day in the grandstand, or in the Pari Mutuel stall which, as usual, was the centre of attraction. A novelty was introduced for those who wished to chance their luck, in the way of a cash sweep, and drawers of first, second or third prizes in this had no reason to complain. It was a much better speculation than the Pari Mutuel as in one instance the winner received \$337, while another first paid \$252. Owing to the rain the ladies' nomination event was cancelled, while the heavy course did not permit of any fast times being registered. In the hurdle race there were two jockeys unseated, Messrs. A. T. Walker and G. K. Hall Brutton, but neither gentleman was seriously injured. H.E. the Officer Administering the Government was in attendance before the starting of the first event, and remained until the finish, taking an active part in the proceedings. The band of the Middlesex Regiment was in attendance, and played selections of music during the afternoon. The patrons and committee of the Club are:—

Patrons: His Excellency Sir Matthew Nathan, K.C.M.G.; His Excellency Vice Admiral Sir Arthur W. Moore, K.C.B., K.C.V.O., C.M.G.; His Excellency Major-General R. G. Broadwood, C.B.; Commodore R. H. S. Stokes, R.N.

Committee: The Stewards of the Hongkong Jockey Club (Ex-Officio); H. E. Mr. F. H. May, C.M.G.; Major Parker; Mr. C. H. Ross; Mr. H. P. White; Mr. G. K. Hall Brutton; Mr. D. MacDonald and Captain Thompson.

r. C. H. Ross, Judge; Mr. H. P. White and Major Parker, Handicappers; Mr. D. MacDonald, Clerk of the Scales; Major Parker, Starter; Mr. J. Paterson, 2nd Starter; Mr. T. S. Forest, Time Keeper; Mr. R. F. C. Master, Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.

The following are the results:—

THREE QUARTERS OF A MILE FLAT RACE.—For Subscription Griffins of this season, 1906-07. Weight for inches as per scale. Winner of an official race to carry 7 lb. extra. Winners at the last Gymkhana 5 lb. penalty. Penalties accumulative. Ponies which have run and not been placed allowed 3 lb. Jockeys who have not won more than two official races in Hongkong, Shanghai or Tientsin allowed 5 lb. Entrance fee \$5. 1st Prize: A Cup presented by E. W. Rutter Esq. 2nd Prize: \$25. (Entrance fees to go to winner.)

Mr C. P. Chater's Rust, 11st 2lbs...	(Mr W. S. Dupree) 1
Mr E. A. Hankey's Off Chance, 10st 12lbs...	(Mr Hickman) 2
Dr J. W. Noble's No Savvy 11st 5lbs...	5lb allowance (Mr R. F. C. Master) 3
Mr Godfrey Master's Drayos, 11st 8lbs...	(Mr Gegg) 0
H.E. Mr F. H. May's Highland Heather...	10st 9lb (Mr May) 0
Mr Medico's Nigel, 10st 11lbs (Mr Clarke)...	0

A field of six faced the starter in the first event, and the flag dropped on a good start for Rust who made the most of his opportunity, and passed the winning post some four lengths ahead of the field. Going up the incline he was challenged by Off Chance but notwithstanding the fact that the latter pony was ridden hard, his pace was not equal to that of the winner and his skilful jockey, Mr. Dupree, No Savvy made a bold bid for second place, but was beaten on the post. Time—1 min. 39 sec. The Pari Mutuel paid \$11.10 on the winner. In the cash sweeps the drawer of rust received \$94.50, while Off Chance paid \$27 and No Savvy \$13.50.

GYMKHANA CLUB CHALLENGE CUP.—Distance one mile. For all China Ponies. Catch weights at 10 st. 6 lb. Winners of an open race or open Griffin race 5 lb. extra. Non-winning Subscription Griffins allowed 5 lb. Jockeys who have not won more than two official races in Hongkong, Shanghai or Tientsin allowed 5 lb. To be

won by the pony scoring most marks in the races for the cup, counting 4 points for a first; 2 for a second; and 1 for a third. The benefit of marks already scored to pass with the pony on a sale. Any winner of the race to carry 5 lb. extra for each win in subsequent starts for the Cup, but in the event of a pony carrying the penalty not winning, 2 lb. to be deducted next time he starts. Penalties accumulative up to 15 lb. Entrance fee of \$5 to go in the purchase of a memento to the winner of each race, and \$25 to second pony out of the Club funds. At the conclusion of the season a cup, value \$100, will be presented to the owner of the pony obtaining the second highest number of marks.

Mr Dryadust's Coxcomb, 10st 11lbs ... (Mr Dupree) 1
Mr Ellis Kadoorie's Manchurian Chief, 10st 5lbs (Mr Hickman) 2
Mr Master's Blue Nile 11st 2lbs (Mr Gegg) 3

After considerable trouble the three ponies in this event were sent away, but it was evident from the start that Blue Nile was hopelessly out of the race, the other ponies having gained a considerable distance before Mr. Gegg's mount got off the mark. Manchurian Chief took the lead from the start, continuing in the van until the village was reached, when Coxcomb lessened the distance between them and drew level as the straight was entered. The run home was an excellent one, and Coxcomb passed the winning post with three lengths to spare. Time—1 min. 12-2/5 secs. The Pari paid \$8.10 on the winner. In the cash sweeps the drawer of Coxcomb received \$166.95; of Manchurian chief, \$47.70; and of Blue Nile, \$23.85.

HURDLE RACE.—For China Ponies. Distance about One Mile and a Quarter. Catch Weights 10st. 8lb. Entrance fee \$5. 1st Prize: A Cup presented by J. A. Jupp, Esq. 2nd Prize: \$25. (Entrance fees to go to winner.) Post Entries. No race unless four starters.

Mr Rolason's Beaufort 10st 8lbs ... (Mr. R. F. C. Master) 1
Mr C. H. Ross' Ben Eion 10st 8lbs ... (Mr. Dupree) 2
Mr Sherlock's Dublin 10st 8lbs (Mr. Large) 3
Mr Brutton's Sanguine 10st 8lbs (owner) 0
Mr A. T. Walker's Picanniny 10st 8lbs ... (owner) 0

Notwithstanding the heavy track, and other unfavourable conditions for the hurdle race, all the entrants started, and the field was despatched in a bunch. Sanguine took the lead, being closely followed by Dublin and Picanniny. Passing the village the latter pony drew ahead of the field, but was displaced by Beaufort as the field passed the winning post for the first time. Beaufort maintained her lead despite the effort of Sanguine to overtake him, and as the field neared the village Picanniny fell with his rider, but fortunately Mr. Walker escaped injury. Ben Eion was now observed to be rapidly making his way to the front, and as the leaders were being urged on Sanguine went down, giving Mr. Brutton a nasty spill. Fortunately the rider was not seriously hurt, although Ben Eion now responded gallantly to the persuasion of his rider. Beaufort had too good a start to be overtaken, and ran home an easy winner. The Pari Mutual dividend was \$21.40. In the cash sweeps the drawer of Beaufort received \$262, while Ben Eion paid \$72 and Dublin, \$36.

TENT PEGGING CHALLENGE CUP.—Presented by His Excellency Major-General Broadwood, C.B. For China Ponies. To be run for five times and to be won by the rider scoring most marks at the end of the season. Best of three runs at each meeting. Points for pace and style. Open to members of both services as well as to members of the Gymkhana Club. Entrance fee \$3. A memento presented to the 1st and 2nd at each meeting. Post Entries.

Mr W. S. Dupree } Dead heat
Mr C. H. Ross }
Mr G. C. Moxon } ... 2
In this event a total of eighteen points was allowed for pace and style, while four points were allowed for pegs. Messrs. Dupree and Ross each scored 23 points, while Mr. Moxon followed with 21 points.

POLO PONY SCURRY.—Open to all bona fide China Polo Ponies passed as such by the Com-

mittee of the Club. Catch weights over 10st. Distance about a quarter of a mile round a post and back—riders to turn keeping the post on their left hand side. Open to members of the Jockey Club, Polo Club and Gymkhana Club and members of both services. Entrance fee \$3. 1st Prize presented. 2nd Prize \$25. Post Entries accepted.

Mr H. E. Large ... 1
Mr C. H. Ross ... 2
Mr W. Gibson ... 3

The drawers of the first, second and third in the cash sweeps, received \$337.75, \$96.50 and \$48.25 respectively. The Pari Mutuel paid \$9.20 on the winner.

ONE MILE AND A QUARTER FLAT RACE.
HANDICAP.—For all China Ponies. Jockeys who have not won more than two official races in Hongkong, Shanghai or Pientsin allowed 5lb. Entrance fee \$5. 1st Prize: A Cup presented by Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson. 2nd Prize: \$25. (Entrance fees to go to winner.)

Mr C. H. Ross' Ben Eion, 11st 2lbs ... (Mr Dupree) 1
Mr Medic's Nigel, 10st 4lbs (Mr Hickman) 2
Mr Nemo's Grand Slam, 10st 7lbs ... (Mr Clarke) 3

The flag dropped on a good start, Grand Slam assuming the lead, and being closely followed by the rest of the field. Coming up the straight for the first time Ben Eion got into a good position just behind Grand Slam, while Nigel was in third place. By the time the field approached the incline Grand Slam had gained considerably on Ben Eion, but as the ponies crowned the hill they were racing neck and neck, Ben Eion on being driven having rapidly overhauled the leader. Nigel was in third position, but gradually drew up on the foremost pair. The field closed on entering the straight, and Nigel and Ben Eion had the struggle for supremacy. The win fell to the latter pony, who had a length to spare as he passed the winning post. Time—2 min. 50 1/5 secs. The Pari paid on the winner \$11.20. In the cash sweeps the drawer of the first horse received \$83.50; of the second \$81; and of the third \$40.50.

THE COMMISSION.

THE P.C.M.O.'S REJOINDER.

On May 6th the members of the Legislative Council were put in possession of copies of a Minute by Dr. Atkinson, the Principal Civil Medical Officer, dealing with the report of the Sanitary Commission.

Dr. Atkinson notes that during his absence in 1906, a popular agitation was made against the Government on account of continuance of the plague, and because several Europeans were attacked that year. A great bid was made then for a Municipal Council. "In the winter of 1912 a general cleaning of the city was effected, and the sanitary staff increased. The co-operation of the Chinese was solicited. Plague still continued. At much less cost, cleaning has gone on since, with excellent results, particularly "a marked diminution" in the average number of plague cases during 1914.05-06, as compared with the previous three years. The increase in 1906 he attributes to water scarcity interfering with cleansing.

The Commission's report as a whole, Dr. Atkinson calls "unjudicial in tone." It has "vague sweeping and serious findings" unsupported by the evidence. "It is not so much what is said as what is inferred that I consider unfair." Some inspectors had sinned, but it was unfair to brand the whole body, which contains, he is pleased to testify, "many straightforward and trustworthy men." He comments that "over and over again distinctly leading questions" were put to witnesses. "Dumping" was in vogue before the plague came. It is not a fact that rat-catching colonies have been almost left to their own free will—foremen and inspectors have always supervised. The Commissioners did not understand the Government method of controlling expenditure. Proper books were kept. It was absurd to suggest that he ever slighted the Sanitary Board, and he does not know "what is meant by ignoring the status of the Secretary" (para 351). "This reference to the one-man system, and indeed the whole paragraph is

simply another way of stating the opinion of the Commissioners that there should be a Municipality."

"Shortly after my return to the Colony in 1911 I wrote in to the Government and strongly recommended that the Sanitary Board be abolished and a Sanitary Department be appointed and I am still of the opinion either that this should be done or that a Municipality should undertake the Sanitary Administration of the Colony. I doubt very much, however, whether there are a sufficient number of public spirited citizens who have the interests of the Colony sufficiently at heart to undertake this."

In conclusion, Dr. Atkinson, who comments on many other paragraphs, states that since his return to the Colony the work of the Medical Department has increased so much that he feels he cannot with justice to himself continue to undertake in future the administration of two such large departments as the Medical and Sanitary.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

An extraordinary meeting of shareholders in the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation was held at the City Hall on the 31st May. Mr. G. H. Medhurst presided, and there were also present Messrs. R. Shewan, H. Keswick, A. Haupt, A. J. Raymond, A. Fuchs, E. Shellim and H. E. Tompkins (directors), Mr. J. R. M. Smith (Chief Manager), Mr. J. C. Peter, Mr. C. W. May, Sir Paul Chater, Captain C. I. Williams, Hon. Mr. E. A. Hewett, Messrs. W. H. Purcell, J. McArthur, Chan Tong, To Fook, C. E. Gubbay, Ellis Kadoorie, A. V. Apoor, W. H. Trenchard Davis, J. Gregory, F. Maitland, Lo Cheung-shui, Cheung Pui-kai, H. N. Mody, S. H. Michael, F. Smyth, J. Barton, W. Dunbar, F. A. Gomes, R. Mitchell, F. P. Hett, H. Humphreys, J. de Champaux, E. G. Barrett, Soomar Mowjee, W. H. Wickham, A. Roger, A. Findlay Smith, J. M. S. Alves, Wong Leung-him, G. C. C. Master, C. Rogge, Ho Kom-tong, J. Wheeley, G. V. D. Parr, K. R. Hynd and A. F. Warrack.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, there being a sufficient number of shareholders present and a sufficient number of shares represented to form a quorum under conditions of the deed of settlement, I will now ask the Chief Manager to read the notice calling the meeting.

The CHIEF MANAGER having read the notice,

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen, you have been invited to attend to-day to consider three proposals and, if you approve of these proposals, to pass certain resolutions necessary to give effect to them. The proposals are:—(1) The increase of the Bank's capital; (2) The extension of the period of the operation of the Bank's Ordinance; (3) The continuation of all the provisions of the clause of our Ordinance relating to our excess note issue. The question of the increase of our capital is one which has occupied the attention of the Court of Directors for some considerable time. At the General Meeting of Shareholders held on the 6th February last, my predecessor in the chair in referring to the proposed increase of capital, called attention to the steady increase of our business, the expansion of Far Eastern trade, and the widening field for the employment of foreign capital in China. The circular letter of the 12th March last, which has been in your hands for some time, fully sets forth the scheme for the increase of capital and I need only add that your Directors are confirmed in their opinion that it is a good thing alike for the shareholders and for the customers of the Bank. With regard to the other two proposals they are of a formal nature, but your Directors considered it advisable that they should be submitted at this meeting. Under our Ordinance the term for which the Bank is incorporated is limited and will expire on 14th August 1908. If we are to continue to remain incorporated and carry on business we must obtain the permission of the Government to do so, and we propose to ask that this permission be given for a further period of 21 years and that all the provisions of the clause of our Ordinance relating to our excess note issue be continued for a like period. By obtaining your sanction now to apply for these extensions we avoid the necessity of calling

another extraordinary meeting next year for that purpose. The necessary resolutions will now be put before you one by one and an opportunity given you to enquire into or discuss any points which may in your view call for explanation.

The CHAIRMAN proposed—That the Directors of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation be and they are hereby requested and authorised by and on behalf of the shareholders of the Company to take the steps necessary for the introduction of an Ordinance into the Legislative Council of the Colony of Hongkong and for the enactment of the same by the Governor of Hongkong with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof to effect the amendments necessary to the Ordinance under which the Company is incorporated and carrying on business so as to allow of the capital of the Company being from time to time increased from ten millions of dollars, the present authorised capital of the Company, to twenty millions of dollars and also for extending the period of the operation of such Ordinance for a further period of 21 years from and including the 14th day of August, 1908, and for continuing all the provisions of section 3 of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Ordinance 1899 for a further period of 21 years from and including the 14th day of August, 1908.

Mon. Mr. HEWITT seconded. Carried.

The CHAIRMAN proposed—That from the date of such new Ordinance coming into operation and becoming effective the Capital of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation be increased from \$10,000,000 to \$15,000,000 by the creation of 40,000 New Shares of \$125 each to be issued at the price of £30 on the terms after mentioned. Shareholders on the Eastern registers to pay for their allotments at the rate of exchange for the Company's demand Bills on London on the day the instalments are due.

Mr. J. BARTON seconded. Carried.

The CHAIRMAN proposed—That the said new shares be in the first instance, in such manner as the Directors shall prescribe for that purpose offered to shareholders in the proportion of one new share for every two shares of which on the 31st day of May, 1907, shareholders shall respectively be the registered holders, and that any new shares not accepted by the shareholders within the time limited by the Directors for that purpose, be disposed of and allotted by the Directors in such manner and at such price as in their discretion they shall think best in the interests of the Company.

Mr. MITCHELL seconded. Carried.

The CHAIRMAN proposed that the payment of the sum of £30 per share for each of the said new shares be made as follows, viz:—

1st instalment of £15 on the 1st day of July, 1907.

2nd and final instalment of £15 on the 1st day of October, 1907

Mr. TRENCHARD DAVIS seconded. Carried.

The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Directors issue to shareholders, holding shares not a multiple of two, a fractional certificate in respect of each share in excess of or below the multiple and allot one new share to every person who shall produce two fractional certificates on or before the 1st day of July, 1907, and pay the instalment in respect thereof.

Mr. HUMPHREYS seconded. Carried.

The CHAIRMAN proposed that after payment of the first instalment, and pending payment of the remaining instalment, scrip certificates in such form as the Directors may determine be issued in respect of such new shares entitling the holders on payment of the remaining instalment, and subject to such other terms as to approval, date for lodging scrip certificates and otherwise as the Directors may prescribe, to be registered as the owners of the shares respectively by such scrip certificates.

Mr. MASTER seconded. Carried.

The CHAIRMAN proposed that interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum be allowed out of the profits of the company on instalments paid in advance of the dates when the same become due, and that registered holders of scrip certificates for new shares be entitled in respect of such new shares to participate in future dividends on an equality with the old shares, in proportion to the instalments paid up, and from due dates for payment of same.

Mr. DE CHAMPEAUX seconded. Carried.

The CHAIRMAN proposed that interest at the rate of 8 per centum per annum be charged on each instalment not punctually paid, and be paid with each such instalment.

Mr. WICKHAM seconded. Carried.

The CHAIRMAN proposed that all moneys received from premium on the said new shares be added to the Reserve Fund.

Mr. MAITLAND seconded. Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, that concludes the business before the meeting, and I thank you for your attendance. I have the pleasure to inform you that according to our deed of settlement a further meeting will not be required to confirm the resolutions we have passed to-day.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF CHINA, LIMITED.

The report of the Directors to the sixteenth ordinary general meeting of shareholders, to be held at the head office of the bank, Victoria Building, Hongkong, on Saturday, June 23th reads:—

To the shareholders of the National Bank of China, Limited.

Gentlemen,—The Directors have now the pleasure to submit to you the accounts and balance sheet for the year ending 31st December, 1906.

The gross profits, including \$74,099.94 brought forward from last year, are \$333,059.72, which, after deducting all charges, leave a net profit of \$221,293.09 which the Directors propose to deal with as follows:—

Place to reserve fund \$150,000 and carry forward balance of \$71,293.09 to next account.

Mr. Horace Mocatta retires in rotation from the London Committee and Mr. J. Scott Harston from the Hongkong Board but, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

The accounts at head office have been audited by Mr. A. R. Lowe and Mr. R. Paterson, Chartered accountants (of the firm of Messrs. Lowe and Bingham).

Messrs. Deloitte, Plender, Griffiths & Co., chartered accountants, audited the London accounts.

J. SCOTT HARSTON,
Chairman.

Hongkong, 15th April, 1907.

BALANCE SHEET 31st December, 1906.

LIABILITIES.

Authorised Capital:—

99,925 Ordinary Shares of £7 each £699,475

Issued capital (at 1s. 8d to the \$):—

40,453 ordinary shares of £7 each £5 paid up £202,265
1906 call of £1 on 40,453 shares calls paid, £39,169 368,649.53
2 1/4 to the \$ \$2,795,820.53

Capital reserve fund 152,820.00
Reserve fund 150,000.00
Notes in circulation 145,440.00
Fixed deposits, current accounts and loan 903,853.70
Bills for collection and branch balances 49,178.80
Drafts, acceptances and endorsements (bills rediscounted) 22,947.66
Balance of profit and loss account 221,293.09

\$4,441,362.78

ASSETS.

Cash on hand at banks \$ 175,800.78
Money at call and short notice 810,000.00
Government securities (£51,312 at 2 3/4) 454,003.07
Bills receivable, loans and advances 2,723,776.12
Bills for collection receivable and branch balances 277,782.81

\$4,441,362.78

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Year Ending 31st December, 1906.

Charges. Directors' fees, salaries, etc. \$ 111,796.63
Amount to be transferred to reserve fund \$ 150,000.00
Balance to be carried forward to next account 71,293.09
221,293.09
\$333,059.72

Balance brought forward from last year \$ 74,099.94
Gross Earnings for year ending 31st December 1906 258,989.78
\$333,089.72

On 1st January, 1907, the Capital and Reserve

Funds will stand as follows:—

Capital (at 1s. 8d. to the \$)...	£202,265	\$2,427,180.00
1906 calls at (2 1/4 to the \$)...	39,169	368,649.53
Capital reserve fund (at 1s. 8d. to the \$)	12,735	152,820.00
Reserve Fund (at 2s. 3/4d. to the \$)	33,906	300,000.00
	£288,075	\$3,248,649.53

DISTURBANCES ALL OVER CHINA.

A Hangchow dispatch reports that there is much discontent in Shaoshing prefecture at the additional taxes that have been levied by the officials of the Boat-tax Bureau there. A large mob attacked the Bureau outside the city of Yuyao, almost destroying the place. A guard-boat, moored near by, was also attacked and set on fire, as the crew—only about a dozen men all told—were too weak in numbers successfully to resist the turbulent mob, who also badly wounded some of the men. Not satisfied, with what they had already done, the mob next turned attention to the new district high school and primary school, the furniture of which was almost destroyed. Fortunately, the scholars had been removed in time, for as soon as the authorities heard that there was a possibility of the schools being attacked the students were at once set free for the day.

THE RIOTS NEAR PAKHOI.

WHY THE MISSIONS WERE ATTACKED.

A *Daily Press* telegram dated Pakhoi, May 30th said:—

Both the English Church Missionary Society and the Kieler China Mission (German) suffered by the riots at Limchow. Only the walls and roofs of the mission buildings remain: everything else has been spoiled, and one Chinese School destroyed by fire.

High taxes and dear rice caused the outbreak, and the people attributed the responsibility to the Schools, Churches, and foreigners.

A *Daily Press* telegram, dated Pakhoi, May 31st, said:—

The insurgents in the neighbourhood of Limchow are increasing in numbers, and the city is in danger of falling into their hands at any moment.

The extent of the damage done is not definitely known here.

ANGLO-JAPANESE STEEL WORKS.

A *Daily Press* telegram, dated Tokyo, June 1st, said:—

Admiral Yamanouchi, the commander of the naval depot at Kure, has granted an interview to the Press with regard to the Anglo-Japanese Steel Foundry now being established.

He said he was the intermediary between the Japanese and English capitalists promoting the formation with a capital of ten millions. This would probably be raised to forty millions when the foundry was in working order. It was the condition of the Government finances which led to the undertaking as a private company. England would supply the engineers and the machinery, and the output would be used principally for the Imperial Army and Navy. This enterprise would greatly benefit Japan. He (Admiral Yamanouchi) was about to leave for England to consult with Messrs. Armstrong and Vickers relative to final arrangements.

JAPANESE SAICEE RESERVES.

A *Daily Press* telegram dated Tokyo, June 5th, said:—

A deputation from Shimpoto interviewed the Minister of Finance regarding the Japanese Saicce Reserves abroad. In the course of his reply Mr. Sakatani said the terms offered by American capitalists for the South Manchurian debentures were unfavourable and that negotiations were now proceeding with British capitalists.

The expedition against the aborigines in the East of Formosa is being prosecuted with unabated vigour. A stubborn resistance is being met with and there are frequent casualties on the Japanese side.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE SANITARY COMMISSION.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS".]

SIR,—It had been in my mind that not least among the considerations which led to the appointment of a Commission to investigate and report on the administration of the Sanitary and Building Regulations enacted by the Ordinance of 1903 were the following, viz.—That the enforcement of these drastic regulations had led directly to a great increase in the rentals of Chinese houses and a consequent general rise in the price of labour and the necessities of life, which had had the effect of driving hundreds of Chinese from the Colony; and that the continuance of this state of things threatened the future progress and prosperity of the port.

The voice of the complaining landlord was heard as well as that of the tenant, but, as a rule, what money the law compels the landlord to spend on the improvement of his property he usually manages to recover from the tenant; and therefore it appeared to me that, however loudly the landlords might lament, the question remained essentially a Tenants' Question.

What then, has the Report of the Commission to say about this view of the matter? Have Chinese rentals increased? I can find no direct evidence of it. One Chinese landlord has told the Commission that, on the contrary, the new Ordinance has caused him a loss in rental of 20 per cent. per floor, and the Commission itself is inclined to endorse the evidence of several witnesses that Chinese house property has depreciated in value 30 to 35 per cent. since the new regulations came into force.

"Stuff and nonsense" (or words to that effect) exclaimed the Colonial Secretary when he read this statement. "If Chinese property had depreciated, the Colonial Treasury would have felt the pinch, because the assessments for the purpose of taxation are based on rentals." He consulted the assessment records of the properties to which the evidence of witnesses related. And what did he find? That the rateable values showed any decline? Not a bit. Did they show that tremendous inflation which common report might have led us to expect? Again the answer is in the negative: the assessments showed no marked rise or fall. They were practically the same in 1906 as they were in 1902. And the Colonial Secretary tells us that proceeding from these particular instances to a general consideration, he finds that "the annual assessments, which are based, be it remembered, on returns of actual rentals returned by the landlords or their lessees, do not bear out the Commissioners' contention" i.e. that Chinese house property has considerably depreciated in value.

Here then we have a veritable Chinese puzzle. I am not, let me say, an owner of Chinese house property, but I am familiar with the fact that the Chinese people generally are paying higher rentals now than they were before the new regulations came into force, and, with all respect to the Colonial Secretary, I make the suggestion that his figures are delusive. The solution of the puzzle appears to me to be this: Grant that the rateable values show no marked rise or fall in rents of Chinese houses generally, but bear in mind that the enforcement of the regulations with regard to cubicles has had the effect of reducing the number of tenants per floor, and if there has been no decline in rentals, we are forced to the conclusion that individually the Chinese tenants have to pay for the additional space they are compelled by the law to occupy. Generally speaking, it may be said that where formerly a floor was occupied by three or four families, only two are now permitted to occupy it, and these two bear the rent that was formerly shared by others. The rent-paying camel is therefore loaded to the utmost, and groaning under the weight of his burden. The heavy expenses the landlord is, with intolerable frequency, required to incur in unnecessary limewashings, concreting, etc., he has to take entirely upon his own shoulders. If this be the true solution of the puzzle, it proves that the landlord and tenant alike are suffering, for the "several lakhs of dollars" which have been expended in adapting property to the new requirements must seriously depreciate the

market value of the property if owners are unable to recover those expenses by raising the rent per house.

I come now to the question as to whether the drastic regulations have tended to drive the Chinese away from the Colony. The Commission reports that the tendency of Chinese to send their families away is becoming more and more marked, but no explicit reasons are stated for the exodus. Indirectly, of course, the report suggests a good many. The Colonial Secretary however, disputes that this tendency exists, and rebuts the finding of the Commission by a quotation from the latest census report, from which it appears that there has been a decrease of 780 adults in the Chinese land population in Hongkong and Old Kowloon, but an increase of 6,855 adult females and something like 6,000 children. We are further told that "the number of families in the city of Victoria is returned as 25,974, as compared with 25,123 in 1901." These figures, the Census Officer thinks, "may be regarded as satisfactory evidence that family life among the Chinese continues to increase, taking the Colony as a whole." Unfortunately no tables of statistics are published with the census report which show the increase in the number of Chinese families in the Colony "as a whole," and I think many will hesitate to accept the Census Officer's conclusions that the increase of female adults which is shown alongside a decline in male adults is satisfactory evidence of the increase of family life. It is notorious that in recent years there has been a large influx of Chinese women of an undesirable type into the Colony owing to repressive measures in some districts of the mainland; and how far this may account for the extraordinary feature of a large increase in female adults which corresponds with a decline in male adults there is no statistical information published with the census report to show.

Let us consider the matter in the light of the only table of statistics published which specifically relates to the number of Chinese families. This table is confined to the ten registration districts of the city of Victoria, and it shows an increase of 851 families in a period of nearly six years. When we see that the former rate of increase (taking the average of ten years, 1891-1901) was 1,100 a year, the evidence of the increase in family life which the last census report affords cannot strike one as very satisfactory. Does it not rather confirm the statements of the Commissioners on the subject? The total increase for a period of more than five years falls far short of the average rate for one year in the previous decade. It is not unfair to conclude that it is very probable that the old rate of increase was maintained in the city until the new Regulations came into force, and that thereafter set in that marked tendency the Commissioners note among the Chinese to send their families away from the Colony. Since the 1901 Census was taken I think I may say several hundreds of Chinese houses have been built in the city, especially in 1902 and 1903, so that on the score of accommodation there has been no reason why the former rate of increase in family life should not have been maintained. There are scores of Chinese houses in the city vacant now, and it is something new to old residents to see so many houses "to let" in the very heart of the Chinese business quarters. Is this due to high rentals, a horror of the sanitary administration, or bad trade—or all of them combined? I leave the question for the reader to decide as he pleases.—Yours &c.

OUPIS.

Hongkong, June 3rd.

THE SANITARY COMMISSION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 29th May, 1907.

Dear Sir:—It does seem incredible to me that this Colony should be saddled with the huge expense of the recent Sanitary Commission when the folly of the whole thing is more than evidenced by the following four lines on page 210 of the Commissioners' report. The Chairman, Hon. Mr. Hewett, being the interrogator:—

Question. Do you know what the name of the Interpreter is?

Answer. Ng Sau Kwong.

Question. Is he a Chinaman, or a Portuguese?

Answer. Chinaman.

How any educated man could ever suppose that Ng Sau Kwong was anybody but a Chinaman passes my comprehension. Why Portugal should have been selected as the possible country of origin of Mr. Ng is known only to Mr. Hewett. Yours faithfully,

P. LOUREIRO.

THE CITY HALL LIBRARY.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS".]

SIR—Will the authorities consider the necessity of (a) improving the lighting of the reading room; (b) extending the time during which it may be used; and (c) permitting, under any necessary safeguards, the removal of books not now included in the "Lending" section of the Library?

(a) The gas is very bad now.

(b) The present hours do not afford much time, out of office hours, to readers. As a counter-attraction to drinking bars and billiard halls, perhaps the unco' guid would support a proposal to have the Reading Room open on Sundays and holidays, and until (say) 11.30 or 12 each night.

(c) Some of these books require study in quieter and more private conditions than are possible in a public room.—Yours truly

L. E. M.

CONCERT AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE

The concert held at Government House on the 8th June, suffered somewhat in point of attendance from the rain which fell during the evening. This was the more regrettable when the cause to be benefitted is remembered—the Saviors' and Soldiers' Home—but doubtless though the number present was small the tickets sold were as numerous as could be expected. The atmospherical depression was also responsible for a change in the programme. A platform had been erected in front of the house, flags encircled the lawn, and Chinese lanterns were suspended all round giving to the scene a very pretty appearance, but the rain made it desirable to hold the concert indoors, and His Excellency placed the large reception hall at the disposal of the promoters. The Alexandra Quartette were the first to take the platform. They added to their reputation by the effective rendering of "Keep down de middle," and the part song "De New Year" and Mrs. F. Maitland who followed, raised the audience to raptures by her charming interpretation of "Cupid at the Ferry," and returned to acknowledge the encore demanded. The beautiful voice of the khaki clad Master Stewart and his sympathetic singing of "The Wanderer" was one of the most acceptable items of the evening and he had to make a return visit to satisfy his hearers, while, of course, Mr. R. Sutherland convulsed everyone with his humorous efforts and had to reply to an encore, as had Mrs. Lello whose cultured singing was greatly appreciated. "The Devout Lover," was Mr. G. P. Lammer's first contribution and the inevitable encore followed. Needless to say that Mrs. Newborn was *persona grata*. She was in fine voice and rendered "Roses in June" with charming effect. Mr. Juhl's violin contribution was received with manifest pleasure. The Middlesex Regimental Band played several selections and sang "Gute Nacht" most attractively and very materially enhanced the pleasure of the evening. Mr. Geo. Grimble was the accompanist.

On June 4th the s.s. *Hongkong* brought a number of missionaries from Pakhoi, and they will remain here until the disturbance there blows over. The refugees were Miss Bolton, Miss Havers, Miss Bachelor, Mrs. Blanchett, Mrs. Bradley and Mr. and Mrs. Wicks. They say that the Imperial troops met and defeated the insurgents, but as it was unknown how strong the latter might become, it was thought advisable for the missionaries to leave their work. When they left, troops were expected daily from Kwangai, and with their arrival it is expected that the disturbance will end.

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S REPORT.

The report of the Registrar-General for the year 1906 is published in a supplement to the current *Gazette*. Here are extracts:—The revenue collected during the year amounted to \$177,284.21 and exceeded the amount collected in 1905 by \$4,336.32. The estimated revenue for the year was \$170,250.00. The principal increase is under the heads—Hawkers and Markets. The number of hawkers' licences was 14,165 compared with 13,782 in 1905. The increase of \$3,976 in the revenue from the lease of market premises comes principally from the Central, Western and Hunghom Markets, but the new Mongkoktsui market also contributes \$849. This market contains 40 stalls and by the 1st April they had all been let at a monthly rental of \$104.50. In the usual course rents began to find their proper level and had fallen to \$79.90 in December. The New Western Market was complete during the year and by the end of November the poultry and fish-dealers had been transferred from the old to the new market. The tenants complain that there has been a great falling off in their business since their removal to the new premises and I believe there is some foundation for the complaint. The accommodation provided for the poultry dealers has been found insufficient. The licensing of Postmen and Postal Hongs was taken over by the Post Office on the 1st May, and the licensing of boats by the Harbour Department at the close of the year. The total expenditure during the year was \$36,947.46 compared with \$31,761.32 in 1905. Of this increase \$3,734.98 were spent on the Census which was taken on the 21st November. The actual expenditure fell short of the estimate by \$9,415.45, of which a little over \$8,500 is due to the height of exchange and changes in the staff. The number of women detained under warrant was 160 compared with 262 in 1905. 299 persons were admitted into the Po Leung Kuk. Of these eight were runaway maid-servants. The total number of persons sent by the Registrar General to two institutes during the year was 31, 10 to the Italian Convent, and 21 to Miss Eyre's Refuge. The number sent under warrant was six and seven respectively. Both these places of refuge have been visited more than once during the year. Miss Eyre's has been lately moved into more roomy and suitable premises. In two cases in which the production of a girl, when called for, was guaranteed under bond, the amount of the bond has been forfeited.

The examination of emigrants is conducted by the Assistant Registrar General and occupied about 109 hours; this is exclusive of the time spent by the Registrar General in re-examining suspected cases. Out of 11,071 women and children examined before embarkation, 35 or 0.32 per cent. were detained for enquiries as against 78 or 0.69 per cent in 1905. 3 cases were still under consideration at the end of the year. Of the remaining 32, 6 or 19 per cent. were ultimately allowed to leave without any order being made, as against 34 per cent. of the emigrant examined were going to the Straits Settlements. On two occasions during the year I have visited ships taking Chinese third class passengers to the Straits Settlements and have been successful in detecting a certain number of cases in which men or boys were being taken abroad under false pretences. It is expected an opportunity will soon be given to discuss the whole question of emigration to the Straits Settlements with the Secretary for Chinese Affairs in that Colony. On a third occasion Sergeant GRANT brought off from a ship 11 men who were unwilling to proceed on their journey; the recruiter who had brought them down to Hongkong had disappeared, and the men had got scared. Hongkong is also directly interested in emigration of Chinese to British North Borneo. As far as I have an opportunity of judging, emigration of labourers to that Colony from Hongkong does not seem to be very flourishing. The class of men who now go compare very unfavourably with the Hakka farm-labourers who used to be recruited some years ago, but the terms offered on the tobacco-plantations do not seem attractive enough. In the Canton river delta the farm labourer receives

\$36 a year and board and lodging, and something more than that will be needed to attract good labourers. In June a number of coolies were discovered on board s.s. *Mausang* bound for British North Borneo. They were shut up in the wheel-house and forepeak. They had all been questioned before embarkation and had expressed their willingness to go. There is no direct emigration to Samoa from Hongkong, but it is believed coolies are taken from the neighbourhood of Hongkong and Canton to Swatow and embarked there. In June a placard was found posted in Queen's Road purporting to be a letter addressed by a Chinese labourer in Samoa to his clansmen complaining of ill-treatment. The emigration from Swatow appears to be conducted under regulations made by the Chinese Local Authorities.

During the year 52 hotel-licences and 36 emigration house licences were issued. The former houses accommodate men and women, and are patronised not only by intending emigrants but by visitors to Hongkong. The boarding houses are made use of by male emigrants or returning emigrants, of the labouring class. The increase in the number of licensed emigration-houses is satisfactory, and may be attributed perhaps to the supervision exercised by the Police. One European Sergeant is detailed to board emigrant ships and visit emigrant houses, and reports regularly to the Registrar General.

The work of enlarging the Central District Watchmen's Quarters at Taipingshan was completed on the 1st March. The balance to the credit of the fund on 31st December was \$10,276 as against \$9,452 for the preceding year. The total expenditure for the year is less by \$7,253 than for 1905, but this is more than accounted for by the small expenditure on new quarters—\$3,607, compared with \$12,347 for the previous year. Wages show an increase of \$749. The item rent has now disappeared from the accounts. It was in 1897 that it was first decided to build quarters for the watchmen. Since then quarters in which all the watchmen are now accommodated have been built in Taipingshan, at West Point and at East Point. One hundred and sixty-eight convictions were obtained before the Police Magistrate through the instrumentality of district watchmen. The District Watchmen Committee met eleven times during the year. The Committee lost by resignation the services of Mr. Chat Pan-po, a gentleman universally respected. Mr. Choa Leep Chee was appointed to fill the vacancy.

The number of marriages solemnized during the year was 125, as compared with 149 in 1905. Twenty marriages were contracted at the Registrar General's Office. 225 permits were issued to fire crackers on the occasion of Chinese marriages, as against 292 in 1905. St. Andrew's Church, Kowloon, (Govt. Not. No. 865 of 1906) and the Wesleyan Chapel, Aberdeen Street, (Govt. Not. No. 1,080 of 1906) were licensed for the solemnization of marriages. The Births registered during the year were as follows:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Chinese, ...	684	341	1,028
Non-Chinese, ...	161	132	293*
	845	476	1,321

* Including two males and one female registered after the expiration of 12 months.

Four hundred and sixteen (416) births were registered during the year in the West Point registration offices in Victoria. The total number of Chinese births registered in Victoria shows a slight increase over the number for 1905. On two occasions the Chinese Press have kindly inserted a notice pointing out the benefits of registration and these are no doubt better appreciated than they were.

The number of deaths registered during the year was:—

Chinese, ...	8,087
Non-Chinese, ...	292
Total, ...	8,379

It is difficult to see how to increase the proportion of births registered. Without domiciliary visits it is impossible to ascertain where a birth has occurred. Something may be done to make registration more convenient by an increase in the number of offices but it is not certain that convenience of itself is a sufficient

inducement to parents to report a birth. It is time a district office was opened at Hongkong. The registers of births and deaths at the Shamshuipo district office were destroyed in the typhoon of the 18th September, but copies of the entries up to the 30th June had already been made and forwarded to the Registrar General's Office. Three hundred and thirty-six permits were issued to exhume human remains for removal to China or for re-burial in the Colony. Six hundred and six certificates were issued by the Police for removal of bodies from the Colony.

Vaccination returns have been obtained from the villages. They are not quite satisfactory, but at any rate a commencement has been made with the keeping of a record. The officer in charge of Kowloon City office thinks that in a number of cases where the children have been vaccinated no certificate is received by the registrar. This is probably true not only of Kowloon City but of Shaukiwan, Yau-mati and other out-districts as well. The increase in the number of vaccinations is most satisfactory. House-to-house vaccination was carried out by the Public Dispensary doctors in Victoria in the cold season of 1905-1906,—531 vaccinations were performed—and is being carried out this cold season not only in Victoria but in Yau-mati and Hunghom as well.

The funds of the Tung Wa Hospital are in a satisfactory condition, the credit balance at the close of the year being \$17,782.28. The expenditure was \$72,519.63 as against \$67,644 in 1905. A trusted employee of the hospital absconded at the end of the year and defalcations to the extent of \$5,927.95 were discovered. This amount was made good by past and present directors of the hospital and others. A small committee was appointed to enquire into the keeping of the accounts and to recommend what safeguards should be adopted, and their report was submitted to His Excellency the Governor. There are certain disadvantages connected with a complete change every year in the personnel of the Board of Directors and to reduce these and to obtain continuity I have invited sixteen gentlemen to assist me as an Advisory Board. This is an informal body not provided for in the constitution of the hospital but its duties are purely consultative. All members are past directors and eight of them have acted as Chairmen. On more than one occasion I have found their advice of great value. The hospital has vacated the old dispensary building and leased it to the Po Leung Kuk, and out-patients are now seen in the hall of the new wing. The Government has sanctioned the establishment of a hospital for Chinese in the Kowloon Peninsula and promised to provide a site. A committee has been formed, and estimates of the cost of erection and maintenance have been drawn up. \$37,850 have been subscribed but it was thought unwise to open a public subscription list until after Chinese New Year. A public meeting has been held at Yau-mati and the hospital will receive, I think, the active support of the inhabitants of Yau-mati and Hunghom.

The Chinese Public Dispensaries were instituted in March last under the style of Tung Wa Hospital branch offices. It has now been thought better to sever a connection—which was almost nominal—and to regard them as distinct institutions. At the close of the year a committee of nineteen was formed to undertake the charge of the dispensaries and it is hoped ultimately to obtain fuller support in Victoria by the formation of local committees, similar to those which manage the dispensaries in Yau-mati, Hunghom and Kowloon City. The dispensary at Kau Ue Fong for the central part of the town was completed on the 4th September at a cost of \$1,732.50. The cost of the building and of the furniture and equipment will not be a charge on the dispensary funds, thanks to the generosity of Mr. Ho Kom-tong who made a gift of \$2,000 for that purpose. The site cost \$3,391. One-third of it has already been promised and I am sanguine that the remaining two-thirds will be forthcoming. On the 27th May a dispensary was opened in Yau-mati at the request of the inhabitants, and another at Hunghom on the 17th June. Well attended public meetings were held in both places to mark the opening. In Victoria the number of patients treated is three times the

number treated in the nine months of 1905 during which the dispensaries were open; the number of death certificates, four times. The number of infants brought to the office is less, but it is satisfactory to find that 867 infants were treated at the five dispensaries. The practice of leaving dead bodies in the streets is more prevalent than it was in 1905 but this is due to the increase in infectious diseases. Thirty-three patients were received into the Kowloon Plague Hospital mostly from Yau-mati. The hospital was built as was mentioned in my last report at the expense of Kowloon City and neighbourhood, but the cost of maintenance during the year was shared by Huanghom and Yau-mati. The hospital—which was a matched—disappeared in the typhoon of the 18th September. There is every prospect of the local committees in the Kowloon Peninsula opening district plague hospitals in 1907. A district plague hospital was opened at Nos. 63 and 65, Third Street in Sai-ying-pun, and 18 persons were treated there. It is managed by the local committee and is under the charge of the public dispensary doctor. The Government has provided a sum of \$1,000 for 1907 as a grant-in-aid to these hospitals.

Early in the year a petition signed by 300 of the principal inhabitants of the New Territories was presented praying for a reduction in the rate of Crown Rent. The prayer was met by an undertaking to fix the present rents for 75 years and the decision of the Government was accepted. In May a petition was received from the inhabitants of New Kowloon complaining of the difficulty they experienced in complying with the building laws. In consequence of a decline in the value of house property in Victoria a petition was presented in May signed by 63 Chinese land-owners praying for a re-valuation but it was impossible to accede to their request as the right of appeal had lapsed on the 6th April. The loss of boats in the typhoon of the 18th September resulted in the issue of a large number of new boat licences and duplicate licences, as damaged boats were repaired and new boats bought or built. Between the 19th September and the close of the year the number of licences issued was:—

Duplicate Licences.	New Licences.
Cargo boats, 123	119
Rowing boats, 59	105
Other boats, ... 45	375
227	599

The fees for duplicate licences were remitted by the Governor-in-Council. The cargo boats that escaped undamaged and boats brought to the Colony from Canton and elsewhere, made big profits out of the necessities of merchants and ship-owners. Charges seven or eight times those paid before the typhoon were made by cargo-boats, and the Government realising the necessity for attracting boats to the Colony and for hastening the repairing of wrecked boats and the building of new ones, sanctioned a charge of four times the legal fare. On the 23rd November when it was thought the state of affairs had become normal, it was decided to enforce the legal scale of charges under pain of cancellation of licence. The site of the second typhoon shelter is under consideration. The boat-people prefer Kennedy Town if a shelter could be built large enough to accommodate all the boats that might seek safety there. Failing that they are in favour of a shelter at Mongkoktsui. In February and the early spring it was necessary to again have recourse to water boats to supplement the supply of water through the mains. The scarcity was felt more particularly in the Western part of the town but the Chinese business quarter was also affected. The great depreciation in the value of the local subsidiary coinage was felt by the Crown tenants in the New Territories when the Government decided to refuse to accept amounts over two dollars in subsidiary coin. The retail business of the Colony among the Chinese is transacted in subsidiary coin, and insistence on payments being made in legal tender was equivalent to an increase of seven or more per cent. in the Crown rent. The site selected by the Chinese for their small-pox hospital did not meet with the approval of the Medical Department. It is difficult to find a site in the neighbourhood of the town which meets the latest requirements of sanitary experts, and in the case of small-pox

the Chinese particularly dread exposure to wind and treatment on the water.

The advisability of exhuming all bodies buried in public cemeteries after an interval of seven years was discussed in the Sanitary Board, but the Chinese would not declare themselves in favour of such a practice except in the sections where burials are free. A Sub-Committee of the Board has been appointed to select a site suitable for cemetery for the more well-to-do classes of the Chinese, in which it would be possible to purchase family burial places and build tombs of the customary design. It is hoped a convenient site can be found and approved by the Government. The local Chinese Press which has developed considerably during the last few years consisted at the beginning of the year of nine newspapers with an estimated circulation of 27,000 copies. Two anti-dynastic newspapers died during the year but another one was started, and a second is to commence after the Chinese New Year.

CANTON.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

SHUM'S APPOINTMENT CONFIRMED.

CANTON, May 31st.

The local authorities received the following Imperial Edict by cable yesterday:—

"Shum Chun Heun memorialized praying that the Edict issued appointing him permanent Viceroy of the Two Kwang may be recalled and a capable official be chosen to fill that position &c. I (Emperor) bear in mind that Shum Chun Heun is ill and has not yet recovered. But Kwangtung is an important Province and at present there are insurrections in Yanchow and Linchow. Many officials in the Yew Ping City under the Chaochow Prefecture have been assassinated by the rebels. I (Emperor) doubt that Chou Fu is equal to cope with the present state of affairs. Unless an official who is known to possess stern qualities and of great reputation, combined with a thorough knowledge of the place, he will not be able to keep the rebels in check. You (Viceroy Shum) have hitherto performed your duty with a sincere heart and will not decline to carry out your duty even if it were most toilsome work and created enmity. When you were formerly Viceroy of that province the schemes you adopted to guard against insurrections were excellent and most appropriate. Therefore on this occasion you are purposely appointed Viceroy of the Two Kwang and you are requested to proceed to Kwangtung and take up the position as soon as possible. You are also requested to devise a thorough scheme to adjust matters in that province, to protect the good and to exterminate the evil people, to eradicate all evil calamities. For generations your family have received Imperial favours. At present the Government is going through hardship and difficulties. It is your duty to endeavour to do your best to help the Government, to do your utmost to quell the rebellion and console the Throne who is now very anxious about the present state of affairs in the Kwangtung Province. You are firmly requested not to decline to accept the appointment. Kwangsi is only a province under your control and jurisdiction; it is not necessary for you to shirk your duty because you are a native of that province. I (Emperor) will not go into the question regarding the request made to grant you (sick) leave. Respect this."

MACAO.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

June 3rd.

BAD FINANCIAL POLICY.

The Leal Senado at their last meeting resolved to raise a loan of \$50,000 for the reconstruction of the gaol. It is an intolerable shame that the Home government continues to draw from the Colony so large a share of its revenue, thus forcing the Colony to run into debt to provide funds for any extraordinary expenditure such as the lighting of the public streets with electricity and the rebuilding of the gaol. The Leal Senado is already paying interest on enough loans, and

seeing that this last loan is for absolutely unremunerative work, a strong protest on the part of the community is called for. It is the duty of the Leal Senado to represent the matter very plainly to the Government. This new loan, I am told, will involve a new tax. The Leal Senado as the representative council of the community should resist any further taxation and ask the Government to give back to them the revenues which formerly went into the Senado exchequer, but are now diverted to the coffers of the Government.

THE PLAGUE EPIDEMIC.

With the sunny weather we have lately been enjoying, the prevalence of plague has notably decreased and soon the city will have a clean bill of health again. What, however, do the authorities intend doing to avoid a recurrence of the epidemic? It appears that the principal seat of the late epidemic was in the district which includes Pataue, Sacong, and Mongha. A general clearance ought to be made of the filthy houses and matcheds abounding in this district. We see what is the effect of such epidemics: great numbers of Chinese shops are closed and the rich Chinese and their families have gone "up country."

A WORD TO THE P.W.D.

Fully eight months have elapsed since the great Typhoon of September last in which a portion of the wall of the Praya Grande was damaged. It has taken the P.W.D. all this time to rebuild about 100 feet of wall and it is still unfinished! The typhoon season has come round again and I should like to draw the attention of the D.P.W. to the danger to which private property on the Praya Grande is exposed by reason of the non-completion of this necessary public work.

THE DISTURBANCE NEAR SWATOW.

REASSURING NEWS.

Advices received by latest mail from Swatow confirm our telegraphic information that no danger has been apprehended in the vicinity of Swatow. A mission family in the town of Ungkong, where the trouble first appeared was advised to leave at once, and did so, but orders were issued to the people to leave all foreign property undisturbed, and up to the present no news that it has been molested has been received by the Missions in Swatow. Soldiers have been sent to Ungkong and vicinity, and on Friday last two Chinese cruisers arrived at Swatow.

OTHER NEWS FROM SWATOW.

A Swatow correspondent writes: With reference to the trouble in this neighbourhood there is little fresh to add. We have about 2,000 Government troops picketted around the place but everything is quiet and seems as usual. This morning (Friday) two Chinese men of war arrived in port and following them came the s.s. Kwangtak with 1,000 more men. I should not be surprised if the whole affair blows over in a day or two. I notice several of the Hongkong papers take a very alarmist view of the revolt. The mandarins and other high officers are lying low, and there does not seem to be any one directing operations. Trains from up country are bringing loads of panic-stricken people from districts near this disaffected area. I hear that the customs officers have received strict orders with regard to incoming passengers. It has been known that of late large quantities of arms and ammunition have been smuggled in along the coast and transported inland.

A KOREAN CENSUS.

In the absence of any reliable statistics of the population in Korea the financial authorities entrusted Mr. Maruyama, Police Adviser, last November with the task of taking a census. The latter accordingly issued instructions to the Police Assistants in the different provinces to immediately start investigations on a certain fixed system. The Police Adviser's Office finished the compilation of the reports on May 22nd. According to the latest statistics, the number of people is 9,638,578 inhabiting 2,322,457 houses. These figures differ widely from those given in the Korean statistics, but it is stated that the latest returns are the nearest to the exact number.

JAPAN.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Tokyo, May 17th.

FINANCIAL NERVOUSNESS.

For many years the genuine investor has not had such an opportunity of purchasing first class stocks at low price as are at present ruling in Tokyo. This is due to a wave of indecision and distrust that has passed over the country—for no substantial reason—in the past few months, during which time Japanese trade and Japanese securities abroad have enjoyed prosperity and high quotations. The phenomenon cannot be easily explained, but the man with a little confidence in the future had the opportunity a week ago of purchasing a 12 per cent. investment of the best class for 50 per cent. above par an investment which a few months ago was quoted at 175 per cent. above par. It is admitted that abnormal prices ruled in those days, but the present prices are equally abnormal in the other direction. The most unsatisfying explanation of the situation is that the community of business men and investors have been suffering from an attack of financial nervousness brought in by a few company promoting rogues. The situation of course to a considerable extent affects business at the Treaty ports, for confidence in the solvency of one's fellow business men at such a period is not very strong and few contracts can be made. This feeling, of course, is especially strong as regards transactions between foreigners and Japanese.

CAUSES OF THE SLUMP.

Among the causes of the slump in the stock market was the suspension of payment of several insignificant banks, but of these two are now resuming business. It is characteristic of the whole movement that the large banks have been in no way hit, excepting that dividends will fall off in the present half-year as a result of the cautious policy pursued. It is curious how public opinion can be swayed by trivial events and how near panic we get because losing for the moment the courage of our convictions. But it furnishes the opportunity for the bold speculator and the inevitable rise of the market will mean "unearned increment" for the far seeing few.

TOKYO ELECTRIC RAILWAY.

The downward course of the stock of this company which, now that the trunk railways have been nationalised, is the best investment of its kind in Japan, has been in exact proportion as the prospects of the shareholders have increased. The modern travelling facilities of Tokyo are almost solely represented by this company, whose lines are quickly dominating the principal thoroughfares of the city for a radius of five miles, and whose authorised capital was recently increased to sixty three million yen. But despite a network of lines in the heart of the city branching out octopus-like into the suburbs the vast waste of Tokyo is still insufficiently supplied with such means of communication and hence an enormous increase of capital. In a few years, however, Tokyo will be as well equipped in this respect as any city in the world. The Japanese metropolis has just attained its two millions of inhabitants, the great majority of whom live in one storied dwellings which stretch out over a vast area. Many yet live several miles from any electric railway, which conveys some idea of the need for the Tokyo Railway Co.'s services and the prospects of its shareholders.

ELECTRIC LIGHT COMPETITION.

Although as yet having no competitors in the field of street traction (an automobile company is in the air) the Tokyo Railway Co. is itself a competitor, with the Tokyo Electric Light Co. in supplying the city with light. It produces more electricity than the railway service requires and is about to increase its capital by three million yen to extend its light supply. This will, of course, be a blow to what may be styled the legitimate electric light company (capital 24,000,000 yen) and the competition promises to reduce the cost to consumers very greatly. The electric light company has long held a monopoly in the field and made consumers pay heavily. Some time ago overtures were made for an amalgamation of the two great concerns but terms could not be agreed upon. If competition should become serious and

rivalry increase it may easily end in the compulsory municipalisation of both concerns, for it is apparent that both these prosperous properties are coveted by the city, which may not be deterred by its recent defeat in connection with the attempt to compulsorily purchase the railway company.

THE RELIGIOUS FORCES.

General Booth has left on the *Minnesota*. For a very old man he has carried on an energetic campaign in this country and has promised the beginning of a new work here in the shape of providing nurses and such like accommodation for the poor. It is by such practical work that the army makes headway in its hold upon the sympathies of the people. A new religious force is at present moving in Tokyo, being a conference of three American Methodist churches with the object of uniting in their missionary work. The opponents of missionaries have long contended that the fact that the missionaries are divided into sects discredits them in the eyes of the natives. Such a union is therefore a real reform and the missionary movement will most likely be much strengthened and better able to accomplish its work.

VICEROY SHUM'S ANTECEDENTS.

Whoso had prophesied a week ago that His Excellency Tsen Chun-hsuan would receive the order "About turn. Quick march" and find himself landed again at Canton would not have been laughed to scorn on account of the nature of his prophecy by any versed in the peculiarities of Peking, for those peculiarities may produce anything from a *coup d'état* to a *coup d'oeil*; but the hearers of the prophecy would probably have been inclined to admit the possibility of the event by reason of its very unexpectedness. For the very unexpected has happened, says the *Shanghai Mercury*.

Tsen Chun-hsuan is an interesting character. He was born with a silver spoon in his mouth and a considerable element of brutish ferocity in his heart. The silver spoon, which seems to have been metamorphosed into a silver tongue, was the gift of his father, Tsen Yu-ying, the famous Viceroy of the Yunkwei Provinces for many years. The animal ferocity is the hereditary gift of his mother, an aboriginal Lolo. These two qualities, a smooth tongue and a ruthless tenacity of purpose have raised him to the highest offices in the land, and enabled him to stir up Peking at its most placid moment. Having been recalled from the acting-viceroyalty of the Two Kuang to take up the substantive post of Viceroy of the Yunkwei he found many reasons for delaying his journey to a post already embarrassed with heavy financial burdens. His determined reluctance to go to the South led to his appointment to Szechuan, another post which he was not keen on taking, and led ultimately, by many and devious ways to his appointment as President of the Board of Communications, with almost supreme ministerial power. How this power was used all the world knows; and all the world knows that he made a bad blunder in imputing corrupt practices to high Princes and officials.

His high-handed proceedings have however played the boomerang and fallen on his own head. What may be the motives of the Imperial Decree issued this morning we cannot pretend to say, but one thing is quite clear, that His Excellency is to be sent back to Canton, as substantive Viceroy, to clear up the mess which he made of railway matters there. That he is anxious to go we cannot believe; still less can we imagine that his former friends in the southern part will welcome his reappearance. On the other hand, nobody will be better pleased at the turn which affairs have taken than H.E. Chou Fu, for warm as was his term of office at Naunking the temperature at Canton has been appreciably higher, and a return to Peking to await further orders will be a welcome relief from the cauldron left at boiling point by his predecessor. The reasons for His Excellency's removal as given in the native press are as numerous as the organs from which they emanate, but the form of his call to Peking leaves little doubt that their Imperial Majesties are well pleased with what he has attempted. If we rash to venture on any prophecy of further changes, but—we shall see what we shall see.

HAKKA AND HOKLO.

An interesting controversy has been waged regarding the origin of the Hakkas and that of their Hoklo neighbours. Away back in the time of the Chou Dynasty the Imperial Commissioner coming to visit the country which was then called 'East of the Passes' and is now the provinces of Fukien and Canton, found the country peopled by the 'Eight Barbarian Tribes' who claimed the snake as their totem. One of the new schoolbooks draws attention to this fact, and boldly asserts that the Fukinese, and the Cantonese, both Hakka and Hoklo, are descendants of the original barbarian stock, and not true sons of Han at all.

The Director of Studies for the Canton Province, apprehensive of the effect of such teaching upon the young minds in the schools, has issued a refutation of the statement, and has ordered it to be inserted in all the offensive books which are sold in the province. His line of proof is a philological one. Examining the names Hakka and Hoklo he finds in both indications that their present possessors are immigrants from the Chinese north, and not indigenous. Despite the return to savage simplicity of dress which one sees upon the river always, among the Hoklo only it is true, and during the summer in the fields also the Commissioner is probably right. Here as elsewhere the aborigines have disappeared before the advance of more civilized races. None of them are now to be discovered on the Hoklo plains; although there are a few place names, and a few colloquial expressions which have no equivalent in the northern dialect, which are undoubtedly survivals of aboriginal speech.—N.C.D.N.

ARTFUL ROGUES CAPTURED.

Before Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the Police Court on June 5th two natives were prosecuted for obtaining goods to the value of \$41.60 by false pretences. For some time past it appears that the defendants have been prospering in an unlawful business, and becoming flushed with success played their game recklessly, eventually falling into the hands of the police. A few months ago the first defendant, representing himself as the second comprador of the Hongkong Club, went into a shop and ordered a large quantity of goods which he told the foki to forward to the Club, where he would be paid. The goods were sent and received by the second defendant, who was introduced as the clerk of the first. The second defendant pretended to enter the Club, but disappeared with the goods while the first engaged the foki in charge in conversation. Then the first defendant succeeded in eluding the foki. The next ventures of the rogues were on shopkeepers at 163, Queen's Road Central and 5, Morrison Street. When visiting the Queen's Road shop the first defendant represented himself as a well-known Chinaman employed in Prince's Buildings, and obtained 20 pair of satin shoes valued at \$24.50, while from the shopkeeper in Morrison Street he obtained provisions to the value of \$15.10. Fokis from both shops accompanied the purchaser to Prince's Buildings, where the goods were taken charge of by the second defendant, and he left with them to get the money. As he did not return, however, the first defendant was taken in charge, and later the second defendant was arrested. After hearing the evidence his Worship found the defendants guilty, sentenced the first defendant to three months' hard labour and six hours' stocks, and the second defendant to six weeks' imprisonment and six hours' stocks.

The long-talked-of incorporation of manufacturers in Japan has at last been agreed upon with the help of foreign capital. The *Osaka Mainichi* reports that private conferences have been in progress between the representatives of English capitalists, and of Japanese match manufacturers since January last for the formation of a match trust and a contract has now been signed for the introduction of foreign capital under very advantageous terms to the Japanese match manufacturers, for the purpose of carrying on the match industry.

COMMERCIAL.

SHANGHAI SILK CIRCULAR.

SHANGHAI, May 29th, 1907:—Telegrams report no change in the home markets. Raw Silk.—During the interval a considerable business has been done for Europe, while prices have suffered a material decline, Gold Kiling dropping from Tls. 625 to Tls. 582½; the market closes very weak with no buyers at the latter quotation. Kaihings and Coarse Silks have been freely dealt in, some 1,000 bales being settled. Hand Filatures.—Nearly 1,000 bales have been bought for the Continent at about average prices. No sales have been made for America. Steam Filatures.—Contracts for Europe have been made to the extent of 1,200 bales during the past fortnight and at the close prices are steady. Tussah Filatures.—No business is reported.

RICE.

Messrs. Wm. G. Hale & Co.'s Circular, dated Saigon, 31st May, 1907, states:—During the period under review, our market ruled low and easy, thus allowing transactions to a great extent chiefly with Europe. At the close, however, it seems to be at the turning point, and shows signs of firmness, owing to fresh inquiries from the North.

We quote for June/July delivery:—

No. 2 White sifted (trié) steam milled (round)	—
No. 2 White unsifted (ordinaire) steam milled (round)	\$3.60
5 % Cargo steam milled (round) ...	\$3.10
10 % Cargo steam milled (round) ...	\$3.02
20 % Cargo steam milled (round) ...	\$2.25

* Prices according to terms and conditions.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, June 7th.

Quotations are:—Allowance net to 1 catty.

Malwa New	\$820	to	—	per picul.
Malwa Old	\$850	to	—	do.
Malwa Older	\$880	to	—	do.
Malwa Very Old	\$920	to	—	do.
Persian Fine Quality	\$800	to	—	do.
Persian Extra Fine	\$850	to	—	do.
Patna New	\$910	to	—	per chest.
Patna Old	—	to	—	do.
Benares New	\$900	to	—	do.
Benares Old	—	to	—	do.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods trade, dated Shanghai, 30th May, 1907, states:—It is somewhat difficult to start a report on the trade this week; on the one hand there are distinct signs of an improved enquiry, and on the other the commencement of what promises to become a disastrous series of failures in the trade has already commenced. One which will bear rather heavily on some of the foreign import houses of Piece Goods and Yarn comes about through the sole proprietor of a native hong and yarn. The others are brought about by overtrading in Dyed Fancy Goods chiefly of which the market stinks, to use a native expression. A time of great anxiety is before the trade most undoubtedly, and it will require the greatest tact and nerve on the part of all, our bankers especially, to avert disaster. As regards the better feeling, the re-shipment movement of American goods is extending and at the same time inspiring native holders with more confidence. This is being supplemented by the buying up of several cheap parcels of goods with which importers had been left by the indentors. So long as such arrangements can be made a panic will be avoided, and as there is no possibility of doing any fresh business the whole attention of the trade should be applied to liquidating the heavy stocks at present lying in godowns here, and so put things on a proper basis again. It will take some considerable time if fresh supplies are allowed to come along, so the best thing will be for the banks to refuse to finance outward shipments for a period. Some such drastic measure will be absolutely necessary before the trade can possibly recover from the flagrant overtrading that has been such a marked feature of the past few years. Encouraged by the previous years of prosperity new native hongs sprang up like mushrooms and with about just as much stability. These were egged on by newly established foreign firms, and Manchester dunners sent out to exploit the markets and destroy the trade which it had taken nearly half a century for some of the older firms to build up. Manchester must isolate this market as the United States has practically done, and allow it to work out its own salvation, to make use of a hackneyed phrase. During the interval it is reported that letters have come in from Manchuria recommending shipments of

Piece Goods as stocks were much reduced. No practical demonstration of any response to this is yet visible. The affairs of this province are still receiving considerable attention in the Press and telegraphically, all of which it is hoped will lead to the desired end. The Manchester market fortunately remains very strong and fully engaged forward. Cotton in Liverpool, after touching 7.08d., declined to 7.05d. for Mid-American, while 6.60d. is the latest quotation for "futures." Egyptian is quiet at 10½d. Prices are rising in the States still and the latest quotations for Cotton come 11.31 cents for November-December and 11.42 cents January. The market is quiet for Yarns, Indian being about three-quarters of a Tael lower on account of the improvement in Rupee rates. Native Cotton is steady to firm. Cotton Yarn.—The market is quiet with a lower tendency owing to the improved rate for remittance. The sales are about equally divided amongst Nos. 10s., 12s., and 20s., amounting to 1,815 bales in all, for Tsingtau, Kiukiang and the River Ports respectively, prices being about three-quarters of a Tael lower.

The following is the weekly Piece Goods Report of Messrs. Ilbert & Co., dated Shanghai, May 31st, 1907:—The market has remained steady but very quiet during the interval, as is customary at this season when the greater part of the inhabitants of the country is engaged upon field work, and the few re-sales recorded are of the usual hand-to-mouth order. The agricultural state of the country as compared to this time last year is exceedingly favourable, for whereas last year there were severe floods covering large and important areas in many parts of the country within the Yangtze basin, this year the first crops in most districts are reported to be very good, as also are the conditions for the commencement of the second crop and the planting out of rice. In the north also, favourable crop reports are to hand from Chili, where a sufficiency of rain has fallen, while the steady purchasing power for imports which Shantung province has evinced for some time past is indicative of good conditions there. The reverse side of the picture is not so rosy, the past week having seen the demise of a large native dealer of both ability and well respected connexions, but who, at a moment when the termination of the very long period of depression that has afflicted our market was almost in sight, has chosen a particularly unfortunate time to die, and the liquidation of his considerable liabilities in uncleared cargo will in all probability mostly fall open the foreign importers concerned. Another dealer who is heavily committed to contract is reported to be in difficulties, and it may result in the shaking out of one or two more amongst the small class of dealers, which would be an unmitigated blessing for the trade as a whole. In spite of these unfortunate contretemps, the majority of the native dealers are inclined towards a more sanguine view of the situation, prices at auctions having been well supported, while holders of stocks are in most instances very firm and have here and there been able to establish a slight advance in prices. In American goods some further quantity for re-shipment back to America has been closed, but the quantity is not believed to be important. Better advices in from Mukden regarding the state of trade there has, however, resulted in some speculative purchases from stock to the extent of three to four thousand bales of Sheetings, the particulars of which have not, however, been disclosed. Home markets appear to have entered upon another upward career judging by the contents of a few private telegrams which have been reported to us, and all possibility of any fresh augmentation of stocks here may be regarded as safely at an end for many months to come.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer *Glaucus*, sailed on 21st May. For Havre:—50 cases camphor, 200 cases palm leaf fans, 524 rolls mats. For London:—134 cases China blackwood ware, 1,246 bales canes, 540 rolls mats, 70 bales feathers, 100 cases soy. For London or Hamburg:—500 cases cassia, 167 bales feathers, 20 cases tea sticks. For London and Continent:—100 cases wood oil, 80 bales feathers, 145 bales canes. For Amsterdam:—50 bales cassia. For Antwerp:—50 bales split bamboos and 26 bales feathers.

Per steamer *Idomeneus*, sailed on 21st May. For Marseilles:—280 bales canes, 56 bales human hair, 125 rolls matting. For Havre:—221 bales canes, 1,670 rolls mats, 375 bales canes. For Liverpool:—112 cases soap, 200 rolls mats, 62 packages Chinese goods, 396 bags ore.

Per steamer *Oceana* sailed on 1st June. For London:—50 bales raw silk.

Per steamer *Oceana*, sailed on 1st June. For Manchester:—50 bales raw silk. For Gibraltar:—1 case curios. For St. Chamond:—30 bales raw silk. For Milan:—55 bales raw silk, 1 bale waste silk. For London:—1,390 boxes tea, 5 cases private effects, &c., 100 bales waste silk, 5 cases opium. For Lyons:—358 bales raw silk. For Marseilles:—20 cases human hair, 8 cases bird's feathers, 125 bales raw silk and 450 bales waste silk.

Per steamer *Nore*, sailed on 5th June. For London Opt. Continent:—5 cases human hair. For Glasgow:—7 cases chinaware. For Manchester:—50 bales waste silk. For Gibraltar:—5 cases cigars, 2 cases curios. For Marseilles:—50 bales waste silk. For Antwerp:—21 packages ore. For London:—38 cases china, wood, bamboo ware, 28 boxes porcelain and private effects, 1 case black wood ware, 120 boxes merchandise, 15 cases camphor, 100 rolls matting.

HANKOW, 29th May, 1907.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul
Cowhides, Best Selected	Tls. 34.00
Do. Seconds	31.60
Buffalo Hides, Best Selected	22.00
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white colour	—
Buffalo Horns, average 3 lbs. each	7.50
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi	10.50
White China Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayn	10.00
Green China Grass, Szechuen	—
Jute	—
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	10.20
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchew and/or Macheng	10.20
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu	8.50
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu	11.00
Animal Tallow	10.50
Gallnuts, usual shape	14.25
Gallnuts, plum do.	17.50
Tobacco, Tingchow	—
Tobacco, Wongkong	—
Turmeric	6.00
Sesamum Seed	5.40
Sesamum Seed Oil	—
Wood Oil	8.70
Tea Oil	—

EXCHANGE.

MONDAY, June 10th.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	2/2½
Bank Bills, on demand	2/2½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	2/2½
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	2/2½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/2½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/2½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	274½
Credits 4 months' sight	279½
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	223½
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	53½
Credits, 60 days' sight	54½
ON BOMBAY.—Telegraphic Transfer	16½
Bank, on demand	162½
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	162½
Bank on demand	162½
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	73½
Private, 30 days' sight	74½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	106½
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	106½
ON SINGAPORE.—On demand	7½ p.c. pm.
ON BATAVIA.—On demand	13½
ON HATPHONG.—On demand	4½ p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—On demand	4 p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	67½
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$ 9.10
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	\$48.00
BAR SILVER, per oz	30½

FREIGHT.

Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s Freight Market Report, dated Shanghai, 23rd May, 1907, states:—We note a slight improvement in the amount of cargo for our Homeward Freight Market since our last. Everything however, remains extremely dull. Coastwise:—Rates are firm owing to lack of outside tonnage, but there is almost nothing doing.

From Hankow per Conference Steamers.—To London and Northern Continental ports 45/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre; 40/8 per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) General Cargo 30/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez):—Tea 37/8 per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (overland):—per carload, Tea, G. \$1½ cents per lb. gross; less than carload, Tea G. \$1½ cents per lb. gross, plus river freight. To Shanghai:—Tea and General Cargo, Tls. 1.80 to 1.80 per ton weight or measurement.

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 7th June, 1907.—We have on improvement to report in the market; business continues very restricted, and rates show no signs of improvement, in fact in almost every stock we have to record lower rates. Exchange, on London T.T. 2/2½, on Shanghai 73½.

BANKS.—Following the fall on the London market rates have declined, and the market has ruled weak. Small sales have been effected at \$885 and \$880, closing with sellers at the latter rate. London quotes £98. Nationals remain unchanged and without business.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions, after small sales at 765 and 760, have declined to 755, with a small sale at the last named rate; buyers at 750 however fail to be satisfied, and the market closes steady, to strong at 755. North Chinas have declined to 75, and Yangtszes improved to 170, the latter closing with buyers. Cantons continue neglected and without business at 280. We quote China Traders at \$91 there being no buyers above that rate.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs remain at 325 sellers, without any sales to report. Chinas have further improved to 84 with sales and probable further buyers.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao, after a period of inaction, have again been in demand, and after small sales during the week at 29½ are wanted at that, and in all probability a little higher rate would be paid. Shells have receded to 44s, London quoting 44/9 sellers. We have nothing else to report under this heading.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have been placed in small lots at 115, but at the time of closing shares are obtainable at 112, and probably a lower rate would be accepted. Luzons call for no remarks.

MINING.—Raubs have been in some demand at 6½, and sales have been effected at that rate. Charbonnages are now enquired for at the improved rate of 475, but no shares seem to be procurable.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks continue on the downward track, and after very small sales at 105, and later at 102, the rate has fallen to 100 with sales, the market closing quiet. Kowloons have receded to \$80, after small sales during the week at \$81. Shanghai Docks have backed and filled between 81 and 83, closing with local buyers at 81, Shanghai quoting at the close 82 sellers. New Amoy Docks are wanted at 11½, but no shares are on offer.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands remain steady at 107, but we have no business to report. West Points continue without business, but it is possible that a few shares could be placed at 48. Humphreys with sellers at 10.90 and no buyers have fallen to 10½, at which rate shares have changed hands, the market closing steady. We have nothing further to report under this heading.

COTTON MILLS.—We have no changes or business to report.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China Providents have found buyers at 9 and later at 8.90, the market closing with a few shares on offer at the latter rate. Cements have steadily dropped during the week, and after sales at 17½, 16½ and 16 the market closes with sellers at 15½ and reported sales at 15. Peak Tramways have changed hands in fairly large lots at 11, but the market closes weakish at that rate, with probable further sellers. Sales of Union Water Boats are reported at 12½. We have nothing further to report on stocks under this heading.

Quotations are as follows.—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	\$200	\$120
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai..	\$125	\$880 London, £98
National B. of China		
A. Shares	28	\$51
Bell's Asbestos E. A...	12s. 6d.	\$7, sellers
China-Borneo Co.....	\$12	\$9½, sellers
China Light & P. Co.	\$10	\$6½, sellers
China Provident	\$10	\$8 90
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo.....	Tls. 50	Tls. 61
Hongkong	\$10	\$11½, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 52
Laou Kung Mow ...	Tls. 100	Tls. 80
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 350
Dairy Farm	\$8	\$15½
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$80, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$102, sellers
New Amoy Dock...	\$6½	\$11½, buyers
Shanghai Dock and	Tls. 100	Tls. 81 buyers
Eng. Co., Ltd.		
S'hai & H. Wharf...	Tls. 100	Tls. 224
Fenwick & Co., Geo...	\$25	\$17½, sellers
G. Island Cement. ...	\$10	\$15
Hongkong & C. Gas...	\$10	\$175, buyers
Hongkong Electric ...	\$10	\$15, sellers
Hongkong Hotel Co...	\$50	\$118, sellers
Hongkong Ice Co.....	\$25	\$245
Hongkong Rope Co...	\$10	\$20, buyers
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$280, sellers
China Fire.....	\$20	\$84, sales
China Traders	\$25	\$91, buyers
Hongkong Fire.....	\$50	\$325, sellers
North China.....	\$25	Tls. 75
Union	\$100	\$750, buyers
Yangtsze	\$60	\$170, buyers
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$107, sellers
Humphrey's Estate	\$10	\$104
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$37, sellers
Shanghai Land.....	Tls. 50	Tls. 102
West Point Building	Tls. 50	Tls. 102
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$475, buyers
Raubs	18/10	\$6½, buyers
Peak Tramways	\$10	\$11, sales & sel.
Philippine Co.	\$10	\$5
Refineries—		
China Sugar.....	\$100	\$112, sellers
Luzon Sugar.....	\$100	\$21, sellers
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila...	\$25	\$15½, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$40
H., Canton & M. ...	\$15	\$29½, buyers
Indo-China S.N. Co.	\$10	\$71, sellers
Shell Transport Co.	\$1	44/-
Star Ferry	\$10	\$28, sellers
Do. New	\$5	\$18½, sellers
South China M. Post.	\$25	\$23, sellers
Steam Laundry Co. ...	\$5	\$7
Stores & Dispensaries.		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$20, sellers
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$8, sellers
Watkins.....	\$10	\$4, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$11½, sellers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$10½, buyers
Do. Founders	\$10	\$150
Union Waterboat Co.	\$10	\$12½, sales

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending May 30th, 1907, states:—Since our last there has been a very meagre business done and there is hardly any change to report in rates. The market is very stagnant and the Settlement to-day is an exceedingly small one. The T. T. rate on London to-day is 3/-. Banks.—

Hongkong and Shanghai Banks. A trifling business has been done at \$895 ex. 73. Marine and Fire Insurance.—North Chinas have changed hands at Tls. 75 and sellers prevail. Yangtsze Ins. Shares are quoted at \$165, Shipping.—Indo-Chinas. No business has been done in this stock, but rates nominally are Tls. 29 for the preferred, and Tls. 22 for the deferred shares. Shanghai Tug and Lighter Co. Some ordinary shares were sold during the week at Tls. 48; the market closes with sellers at Tls. 47. The preferred remain at Tls. 50. Docks and Wharves.—Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co. Ltd. opened with sellers at Tls. 76. A demand sprang up at this rate and the market advanced to Tls. 80 for cash and May. There has been very little done and the market closes at this rate. Shanghai and Hongkong Wharves have been very steady during the week at Tls. 22½-3½ for cash. For June a sale is reported at Tls. 225 and for September shares can be obtained at Tls. 232½, Yangtsze Wharf and Godown Co. Shares have sustained a drop to Tls. 212½. Sugars.—Nothing reported. Mining.—No business reported. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment Co. A weakness has prevailed since our last and shares have been dealt in from Tls. 104 down to Tls. 102 for the old shares, closing with sellers. For the new shares we quote Tls. 101. There has been no other business reported. Industrial.—Cotton. There is no inquiry for cotton shares at present. Shanghai Gas Co. Shares have been dealt in at Tls. 107 and Tls. 106. China Flour Mills remain steady at Tls. 65. Maatschappij, &c., in Langkats. Shares advanced early in the week from Tls. 285 to Tls. 287½ and Tls. 290, when some shares came into the market and the rate receded to Tls. 287½. The September market remains at Tls. 300. Miscellaneous.—S. Moutrie & Co. There are small buyers at \$48. Astor House Hotel. There are sellers at \$29 cash and \$30 for June. Shanghai Horse Bazaars have been placed at Tls. 45 and there are further buyers at this rate. Shanghai Mutual Telephones. A few shares are on the market at Tls. 60. Loans.—There is no business reported.

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 31st May.—Only a limited business has been transacted during the period under review. From Saigon to Hongkong, 13 cents per picul has been accepted; to Philippines, one fixture reported; to Singapore, 15 cents. From Bangkok to Hongkong, 27 cents and 20 cents per picul. From Iloilo to Hongkong, 18 cents last. From North Coast Java to Hongkong, 30 cents nominal. From Pulo Lant to Hongkong, \$3.00 per ton. From Labuan to Penang, \$3.00; to Hongkong, \$2.25; to Zamboanga, \$2.50. From Rajang to Hongkong, a Norwegian steamer has been closed at \$13,200 lump sum. From Hongay to Hongkong, \$1.50; Penang, \$3.25. Coal freights are firm. South Japan coal port to this, \$1.70 per ton; Canton, \$2.50 last. The following are the settlements:—

Ragnar—Norwegian steamer, 1,220 tons, Rajang to Hongkong, \$13,200 lump sum.
Fiume—German steamer, 838 tons, Labuan to Zamboanga, \$2.50 per ton.
Baudar Maru—Japanese steamer, 2,000 tons, Labuan to Penang, \$3.00 per ton.
Neumuehlen—German steamer, 1,949 tons, Pulo Lant to Hongkong, \$3.00 per ton.
Ragnar—Norwegian steamer, 1,220 tons, Wakamatsu to Canton, \$2.55 per ton.
An Indo China S. N. Co.'s steamer, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.70 per ton.
Pocahontas—British steamer, 1,721 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.70 per ton.
Fri—Norwegian steamer, 859 tons, Moji to Canton, \$2.50 per ton.
Lopal—German steamer, 1,237 tons, Hongay to Penang, \$3.25 per ton.
Hinsang—British steamer, 1,536 tons, Hongay to Hongkong, \$1.50 per ton.
A China Navigation Co.'s steamer, Newchwang and Tairen to Canton, 25 cents per picul.
Tolv—Norwegian steamer, 740 tons, Bangkok to Hongkong, 27/20 cents per picul.
Landrat Scheiff—German steamer, 1,012 tons, Singapore to Shanghai, \$13,000 lump sum.
Progress—German steamer, 799 tons, Haiphong to Iloilo, \$4,000 lump sum (cattle).
Progress—German steamer, 799 tons, Iloilo to Hongkong, 18 cents per picul.
Telemachus—British steamer, 1,340 tons, Saigon to Swatow, 20 cents per picul.
Fiume—German steamer, 838 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, private terms.
Norrone—Norwegian steamer, 808 tons, Saigon to Amoy, 24 cents per picul.
Taishan—British steamer, 1,123 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 17 cents per picul.
Laertes—British steamer, 1,514 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 18 cents per picul.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

June—

ARRIVALS.

- 1, Canton, British str., from Saigon.
- 1, Chihli, British str., from Haiphong.
- 1, Choyssang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 1, Kwonglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 1, Machew, German str., from Bangkok.
- 1, Nikkai Maru, Jap. str., from Hongay.
- 1, Onsang, British str., from Kutchinotzu.
- 1, Signal, Ger. str., from Hoihow.
- 1, Shoshu Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
- 1, Yochow, British str., from Shanghai.
- 2, Ajax, British str., from Shanghai.
- 2, E. of Chiba, British str., from Vancouver.
- 2, Fausang, British str., from Sourabaya.
- 2, Haiching, British str., from Foochow.
- 2, Yiksang, British str., from Moji.
- 3, Aikoku Maru, Jap. str., from Saigon.
- 3, Hiroshima Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
- 3, Hoihow, British str., from Swatow.
- 3, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
- 3, Nissu Maru, Jap. str., from Saigon.
- 3, Paoting, British str., from Amoy.
- 3, Huyan, French str., from Saigon.
- 3, Sexta, Ger. str., from Saigon.
- 3, Sullberg, German str., from Haiphong.
- 3, Tamsui, British str., from Iloilo.
- 3, Tango Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
- 3, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
- 4, Aldershot, British str., from Mororan.
- 4, America M., Jap. str., from San Francisco.
- 4, Glenlogan, British str., from Shanghai.
- 4, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
- 4, Kueichow, British str., from Tientsin.
- 4, Wingsang, British str., from Wuhu.
- 5, Anglin, German str., from Bangkok.
- 5, Benavon, British str., from London.
- 5, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
- 5, Gneisenau, German str., from Foochow.
- 5, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 5, Kenkon Maru, Jap. str., from Saigon.
- 5, Lightning, British str., from Calcutta.
- 5, Nore, British str., from Yokohama.
- 5, Roon, German str., from Singapore.
- 5, Shimosa, British str., from Keelung.
- 5, Siberia, Am. str., from San Francisco.
- 5, Silesia, German str., from Singapore.
- 5, Telemaobus, British str., from Saigon.
- 5, Verona, German str., from New York.

June—

DEPARTURES.

- 1, Chiidar, Norwegian str., for Swatow.
- 1, Eastern, British str., for Sydney.
- 1, Fiume, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
- 1, Glenogle, British str., for Amoy.
- 1, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoihow.
- 1, Kaifong, British str., for Iloilo.
- 1, Korea, American str., for Shanghai.
- 1, Kwangtiah, Chinese str., for Swatow.
- 1, Mausang, British str., for Kudat.
- 1, Oceana, British str., for Europe.
- 1, Paklat, German str., for Swatow.
- 1, Ragnar, Nor. str., from Wakamatsu.
- 1, Rubi, British str., for Manila.
- 1, Tinhow, British str., from Foochow.
- 1, Tjibodas, Dutch str., for Singapore.
- 1, Varg, Norwegian str., for Kobe.
- 1, Wakasa Maru, Jap. str., for Yokohama.
- 2, Amigo, German str., for Pakhoi.
- 2, Dakotah, British str., for San Francisco.
- 2, Joshin Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
- 2, Kwonsang, British str., for Swatow.
- 2, P. Sigismund, German str., for Yokohama.
- 3, Heimdal, Nor. str., from Wakamatsu.
- 3, Hilary, German str., from Macassar.
- 3, Seiko Maru, Jap. str., from Foochow.
- 3, Shaohsing, British str., for Swatow.
- 3, Tamsui, British str., for Ningpo.
- 4, Chihli, British str., for Hoihow.
- 4, Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 4, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
- 4, Hiroshima Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
- 4, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Swatow.
- 4, Nord, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
- 4, Taming, British str., for Manila.
- 5, Ajax, British str., for Singapore.
- 5, Bandai Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
- 5, Borneo, German str., for Sandakan.
- 5, Gneisenau, German str., for Europe.
- 5, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 5, Petchaburi, German str., for Swatow.
- 5, Shoshu Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
- 5, Signal, German str., for Swatow.
- 5, Sungkiang, British str., for Cebu.
- 5, Tjimahi, Dutch str., for Singapore.
- 5, Ulv, Norwegian str., for Swatow.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per *Taming*, from Manila, Mrs. Van Der Woude, Messrs. F. Wickersham, T. Brown, F. C. French, A. W. Story, Angelo Bianchi, Jules Valentine, A. Perovano, Manuel, Komero, and Ian Guanco.

Per *Tartar*, for Hongkong from Vancouver, Mrs. J. Gaddie, Miss E. S. Chandler, Messrs. F. Kinloch, N. Stauffer, S. Fowler, C. E. Fleming, W. N. Chandler, R. Cunningham, and J. A. Brooker; from Yokohama, Miss E. Lason, and Miss A. F. James; from Kobe, Mr. H. Wilfred Kelly, from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. B. Lichtig, and Miss B. L. Tonkin.

Per *Empress of China*, from Vancouver, Mrs. Freemantle, Miss R. S. Haber, Comdr. Granfell, Rear Admiral Hemphill, Lieut. D. P. Mannix, Lieut. Comdr. Freemantle, Ensign W. S. Anderson, Messrs. J. Hutton, L. F. Haber, R. R. Carr-Harris, and J. Whittall; from Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. S. Greenwood, and Major and Mrs. Payson and child; from Shanghai, Dr. and Mrs. S. R. Rossiter, Messrs. H. Holgate, L. L. Henson, C. Hoppenburg, Titch, G. Harling, J. Bruins, and W. S. Allen.

Per *Gneisenau*, for Hongkong, from Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Murray, Mr. and Mrs. S. D. Hartinezia, Mr. Freih. v. Werthern; from Kobe, Messrs. M. F. Moses and E. H. Staples; from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. D. Bevan and infant, Mr. and Mrs. Musso, Mrs. Ermelinda Harquessa, Miss A. V. Seelhorst, Miss Emilia Harques, Messrs. Haywood, W. Kruse, Crombia, Enrico Belsito, F. P. Musso, R. S. Dougall and Capt. Anders.

Per *Prinz Sigismund*, for Hongkong, from Sydney, Mrs and Miss Fox, Messrs. von Boehl, V. Sharp, P. Lawrence E. Grey, F. W. Toslin, E. Moore, and C. Rosenorn; from German New Guinea, Mrs. Stoermer, Miss Pullen Burry, Miss A. Schwab, Dr. Seibert, Messrs. C. Mueller, A. Schmitz, W. Guenther, Malitz, and Wieland; from Manila, Mr. and Mrs. P. Krafft, Mrs. A. Chenez, Miss R. Carr, Miss Hashin, Messrs. F. Eisenmann, A. Conde, T. Fantes, S. Rueda, A. Hashin, Ismael, N. Hashin, and T. Bayldon.

Per *Roan*, for Hongkong, from Southampton, Messrs. A. H. Skelton and family, A. Fealier, Alfred S. Hitchcock; from Genoa, Messrs. J. Kennedy, Ropsch, P. Carter, J. Sonksen and E. de Vries; from Aden, Mr. Samson; from Colombo, Messrs. B. H. Huntington and Rafael Lopez; from Penang, Messrs. Ph. L. Runge and J. Wilson; from Singapore, Dr. Wurker, Messrs. W. S. Scott, J. J. Keegan, H. Rosenkrantz, J. Solomon, A. Warnecke & T. Lawrence.

Per *Zafiro*, from Manila, Mr. and Mrs. Baldwin, Mr. and Mrs. Gerdes, Mr. and Mrs. Whittier and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. E. Francisco, Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Ward, Mr. and Mrs. Gets, Mrs. Dolores Sebastia and 4 children, Mrs. F. B. Dilworth, Miss H. Rooth, Miss F. Anido, Miss Gets, Master Dilworth, Master Francisco, Messrs. V. H. Muller, J. W. Grea, T. B. Powers, Chas. G. Lemke, V. Kaminski, C. L. Polley, R. H. Baker, Joseph Luke, S. C. Schwarzkoft, W. F. Montavon, M. W. File and L. P. Holden.

Per *Siberia*, from San Francisco, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Cain, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Hamilton, Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Kadooria, Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Mullins, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Staats, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Vickers, Rev. and Mrs. C. E. Fokles, Mrs. E. A. Holmes, Mrs. W. Hunsaker, Mrs. J. Lashbrook, Mrs. S. J. Lashbrook, Mrs. G. E. Nesom, Mrs. Louis Oy and infant, Mrs. J. Schaezel, Mrs. E. B. Spencer, Miss Mary Carrigan, Miss Mary Eokles, Miss Margaret Eokles, Miss A. Galt, Miss A. Hamilton, Miss M. A. Luttmer, Miss C. Layton, Miss C. A. Neale, Miss M. F. Byerson, Miss Steele, Miss Besale Taylor, Miss V. Williams, Capt. E. H. Bonham and servant, Dr. I. F. Cohn, Dr. E. B. Copeland, Dr. John Flint, Dr. C. K. Winn, Master Horace Kadoorie and amah, Master Lawrence Kadoorie and amah, Master Julius Schaezel, Master Charles Eokles, Lieut. W. H. Lassing, U.S.N., Messrs. M. Asuzano, E. Asuzano, J. E. Bien, J. Carrigan, L. A. Cooper, L. A. Gebhardt, J. P. Heilbron, A. Heinrich, V. Hutehinge, A. Jordan, W. K. Kennedy, B. Levin, Pedro Mapna, Tomas Mapna, Hugh L. McKenzie, J. W. Ratcliffe, E. Reeves, J. J. Sullivan, L. D. Wharton and Hugh A. Wilson.

DEPARTED.

Per *Rubi*, from Hongkong, for Manila, Mr. and Mrs. Peate, Mr. and Mrs. Claude King, Mr. and Mrs. Saunders, Mr. and Mrs. Chandler, Mrs. Hamilton, Miss Courky, Miss Barretto, Miss H. Grenville, Miss F. Hamer, Miss K. Spins, Miss Crosbie, Miss G. Lord, Miss Barretto, Col. and Mrs. A. O. Brodie, Messrs. Sherman, S. Cotter, F. Peachley, C. Bown, S. Butt, J. Strout, W. M. L. Robertson, W. Y. Stevenson, F. A. Choppard, T. N. Devittia, B. Jalandoni, Felix Jannora and S. Fowler.

Per *Oceana*, for London, Mrs. Weatherston, Miss O'Brien-Butler, Lance Sergt. Robertson, Messrs. C. H. Gould, and F. O. Davies; for Bombay, Messrs. G. H. Lare, and P. R. Kasad; for Colombo, Messrs. W. F. Stratton, and A. M. Meldrum; for Marseilles, Mr. C. H. Kuan; for Penang, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. MacMillan; for Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Oldham, Messrs. Lofts, W. Roock, R. T. Cozens, H. T. Seymour, S. Khan, S. C. Halleem, C. G. H. Hannan, and H. M. Ring.

Per *Roan*, from Hongkong, for Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Mouttton, Dr. Seibert, Messrs. J. McArthur, F. A. Noronha, V. H. Muller, Hollywood, S. R. Mennit, Aug. Pirovano, H. Beauche, C. D. Haney, Matsumoto and party, Santos and J. Burton; for Nagasaki, Mrs. S. Doi and child, Messrs. E. Neshioka, Kaneda, Tokussaga, Yezachi, S. Mamma and Schwarzburg; for Kobe, Messrs Yoshida and Masaio; for Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. Baldwin, Miss Blascheck, Miss Hurry, Dr. L. Keyser, Messrs. P. Lawrence, H. Blascheck, T. E. Schubert, R. Lopez and K. L. Wai.

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